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9 Arts & Entertainment
Nitzan's off-beat 'Rebels'



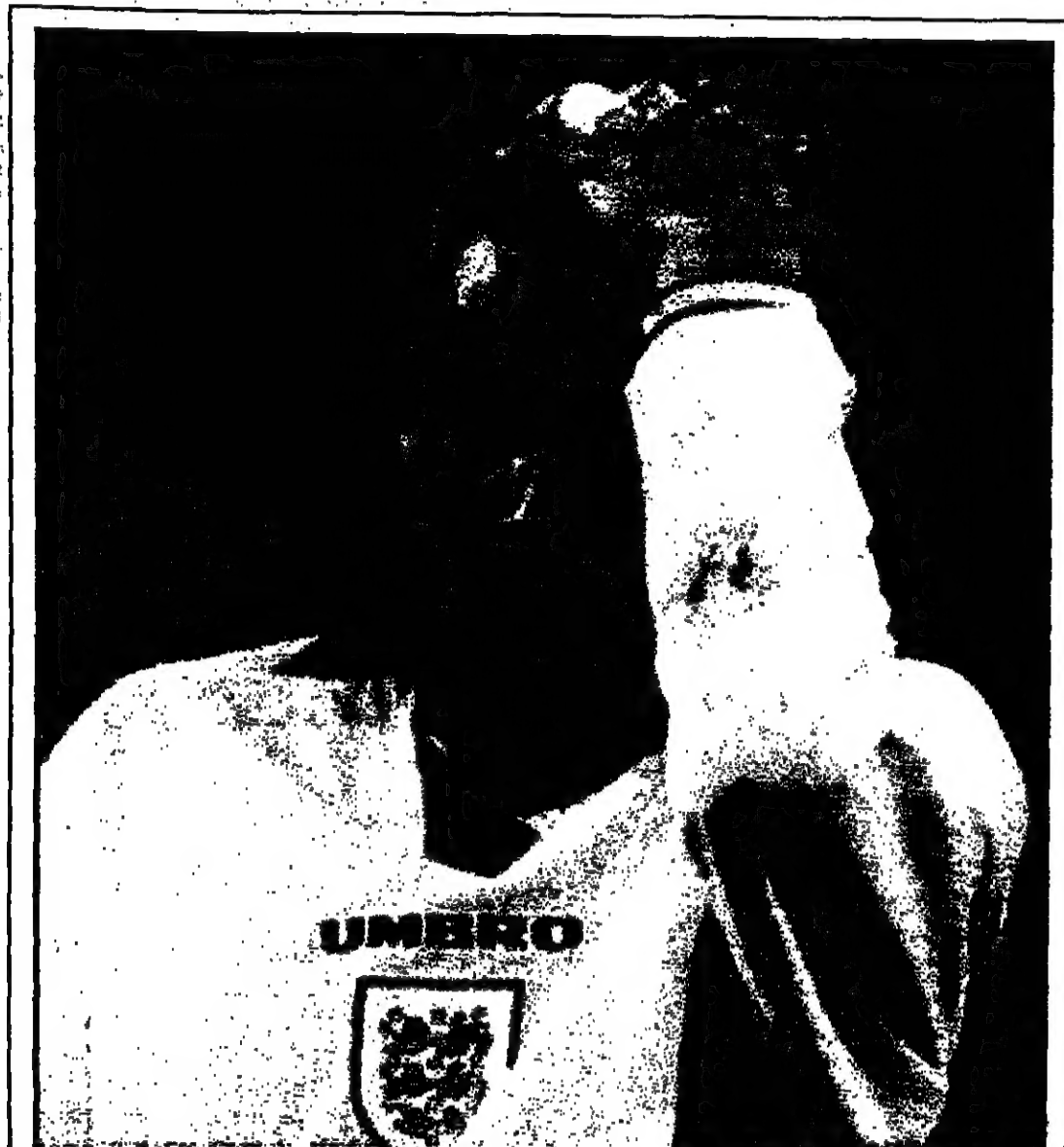
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Romania defeats England in World Cup
England's David Beckham reacts after Romania scores a goal en route to a 2-1 victory in their World Cup match in Toulouse, France last night. Story, Page 20 (Reuters)

Ministers divided over withdrawal referendum

Livnat, Hanegbi: Poll should be advisory

By DAN IZENBERG,
MICHAEL YUDELMAN,
and LIAT COLLINS

The government appeared divided yesterday over holding a referendum on implementing the second pullback, and if so, what kind of referendum would be conducted.

The Prime Minister's Office said that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu had not yet decided "on the details of a referendum," him reported.

Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi and Communications Minister Limor Livnat yesterday recommended holding an "advisory" referendum whose outcome would not legally bind the government or the Knesset, the two said.

Trade and Industry Minister Natan Sharansky, meanwhile, supports a binding referendum, as does Education Minister Yitzhak Levy, noting this is the National Religious Party's traditional stance on matters concerning territorial compromise.

However, Levy's party colleague, Transport Minister Shaul Yaalon, expressed strong opposition to the referendum idea, as did Agriculture Minister Rafael

Eitan, who wants early elections. Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai said he has more questions than answers concerning the idea.

"I don't know what a public referendum is: How it is carried out; in what time frame; what it costs; whether it is necessary?" Mordechai said. "I think the main thing is to preserve the momentum

in the progress of the negotiations with the Palestinians; that the Palestinians will do what they promised."

Roman Bronfman (Yisrael Ba'aliyah), who heads the forum of moderates in the coalition, said the plebiscite would be an attempt to postpone the redeployment.

Beyond the coalition, the referendum idea was attacked by both

President Ezer Weizman and opposition leaders, headed by Labor Party chairman Ehud Barak.

Weizman doubted the point of holding a referendum, because the debate on the pullout is not over and the main issue will be the final-status agreement.

See REFERENDUM, Page 2

Seeking the people's will

BACKGROUND

By DAN IZENBERG

A law calling for an advisory referendum does not change the constitutional system, since the referendum does not override the Knesset.

Attorney-General Elyakim Rubinstein said yesterday. Such a law, therefore, would not be a basic (constitutional) law and wouldn't need approval by an absolute Knesset majority. The law would establish the procedure for voting and the provisions for supervising and financing a referendum.

The "advisory" referendum is used in Norway, said Hebrew University political scientist Avi Diskin. The last time it was used,

regarding the direct election of the premier, said Diskin. In the end, he didn't stand for such an election, "and we are stuck with the law."

Diskin would prefer the representative democracy form of the parliamentary system to the more direct one implied by the referendum.

"In direct democracy, the leaders are strongly influenced by immediate interests," said Diskin. "On the face of it, the system seems more democratic. In fact, however, the legislators are more concerned with the immediate popularity of their actions and are motivated by ego-centric and particularistic concerns."

Girl, 5, raped and murdered; two teenagers suspected

By DAVID RUDGE

Two teenage boys were arrested yesterday in the murder of a five-year-old girl who was apparently strangled to death after being sexually molested in the bomb shelter under her home in Kafr Makr near Acre.

Initial findings from the post-mortem carried out at the Abu Kabir Forensic Science Institute indicated that the girl had been sexually assaulted.

Police sources said that one of the suspects admitted having forced himself on the girl, Sabrina Barud, but denied having killed her.

The other suspect is not cooperating with the inquiries and has reportedly denied any involvement.

The two suspects, both 14 and neighbors of Barud, were remanded in custody for seven days by the Acre Magistrate's Court yesterday.

Barud's body was tied up in a sack and left in the bomb shelter, the door of which was locked. It is believed the perpetrators decided to kill her so she would be unable to identify them.

Nevertheless, during the course of intensive inquiries at the crime scene, police discovered that two boys had been seen in the vicinity of the bomb shelter at the time Barud went missing. The suspects were arrested and taken for questioning.

The body was discovered late Sunday night by Barud's mother Faieza, who had been searching for her since the afternoon.

The heartbroken mother said Barud had gone out to play with one of her brothers, but did not return. Her father was not at home at the time, but telephoned and decided to return home when he learned she was still missing at 9:30 p.m.

He came back to find police at the scene and learned that his daughter had been murdered. The father, an informer who previously had worked with the General Security Service, moved into the village with his family eight years ago from Gaza.

He told reporters he had complained to the authorities in the past that crime, especially drug use, was rampant in the area of the village where they were settled and had asked to be moved elsewhere, but to no avail.

Originally, it was suspected that somebody might have tried to take revenge on the father, because of his previous activities. Inquiries by police from the nearby Acre station, however, revealed that the probable motive was sexual.

One of the suspects is apparently the son of another collaborator, reportedly from Lebanon, who was settled in the village with his family some time ago.

Weizman: Netanyahu misled me claiming 2nd pullback was sealed

By MICHAEL YUDELMAN

President Ezer Weizman yesterday lashed out at the government, criticizing it for its handling of the economy, the peace process, and the referendum and complaining that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu misled him about the second pullback.

At a breakfast with Netanyahu a week and a half ago, Weizman was given to understand that the pullback was a done deal to be implemented by mid-June, the President said.

After that he had urged Labor Party leader Ehud Barak to provide Netanyahu with a parliamentary safety net and to persuade Arab leaders to support the move.

Today, he said he understands the pullback is not close.

"I have reasons to be disappointed with the way the peace process is conducted. The peace process is mired down and limping, and the economy is stuck together with it," Weizman told a group of Labor MKs at a meeting initially called to discuss a parliamentary safety net for the pullout agreement.

Explaining his refusal to speak at the Zichron Ya'acov economic conference as scheduled on Sunday, Weizman said he had agreed to speak a month or two ago, when he had grounds to believe the peace process would advance, but his expectations were thwarted.

"Had he spoken at the conference, he said, his address would have been angry, so he decided to cancel it."

"One of the things which hurt me and angered me the most was that they've taken the joy out of the peace process," Weizman said. "All my life I've dealt with econ-

omy, security, and peace, and I am convinced you cannot sever the economy from the general peace policy. Today, the peace is limping, and the economy along with it."

Weizman said Israel's economy started to flourish "after we signed peace with Egypt, shook [Yasser] Arafat's hand, and made peace with Jordan. The doors of the world opened to us and investments started pouring in. Today there's a recession, growing unemployment, a drastic reduction in investments."

Weizman said he did not know whether the safety net is relevant at this stage, but expressed belief that Labor would support the pullback if and when it is presented to the Knesset.

The MKs attending the meeting were Yossi Beilin, Hagai Merom, Ophir Pines, Rafik Haj-Yithia, Eitan Cabel, and Rafi Eilat.

The prime minister's bureau would not comment on Weizman's statements.

NOW IT'S ALL UP TO YOU!

On Monday, June 16, 1998, Coalition and Opposition members submitted the following proposal to the Knesset:

BASIC LAW: FREEDOM OF RELIGION

Proposers:

Hagai Merom (Labor), Modi Zandberg (Tzomet), Ori Orr (Labor), Amnon Rubinstein (Merez), Michael Nudelman (Yisrael Ba'aliyah), Avraham Poraz (Shinui), Sofia Landver (Labor)

The main principles of the proposal are: "All persons are entitled to freedom of religion" ... "No person should be advantaged nor disadvantaged on religious grounds" ... "Marriages will be performed as decided by the couple, in either a religious or civil ceremony" ... "The kashrut of food in the army will be ensured" ... "Shabbat and Jewish holidays shall be established days of rest in the State of Israel"...

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NEWS

in brief

Palestinian dies in Israeli jail

Human rights groups called for an immediate investigation into yesterday's death of a Palestinian prisoner who died at Ramle prison hospital, where he was recovering from heart surgery. Yusef Arari was sentenced to 12 years in prison by Israel in 1988 for security related crimes. On May 19, he was transferred from his prison in Ramle and underwent heart surgery at an Israeli hospital. He spent two weeks recovering there and was transferred back to the Ramle prison hospital on Sunday.

The Palestinian Center for Human Rights issued a scathing statement blaming the death on the prison hospital. Prison Authority spokeswoman Orit Messer-Harel rejected the charges and said Arari had received excellent care after he was transferred back to Ramle prison. But she said the prison was appointing a committee to investigate the death. AP

Teen murder suspects' remand extended

The remand of two 16-year-olds from the village for wayward youth in Beit Hagai, who allegedly murdered Abdul Majid Abu Turki, of Hebron, last Tuesday, was extended for seven days by Jerusalem Magistrate's Court yesterday. The two hit Abu Turki, who was walking along the road, on the head with a wooden pole as they drove past him. He died several hours later.

Meanwhile, the police will confer with the district attorney regarding the driver, an adult who was released in the initial stages of the investigation. He failed to prevent the attack and did not stop the car after the youths hit Abu Turki.

Margot Dudkevitch

Searches continue for Israeli in India

Searches continued yesterday for Amiram Elkayam, 23, from Ramle, who disappeared during a trip to India with a friend. A group of six Israelis, including Elkayam's brother, yesterday climbed the mountain where he disappeared during a storm, but since it was impossible to communicate with them, it is not known whether they were able to pick up his trail or gather any information about him. The friend emerged safe from the storm.

Friends of Elkayam say they do not have enough money to keep up the search. Donations can be made to the Ami Elkayam Fund, Bank Hapoalim, Be'er Ya'acov, branch number 637, account number 225910. Iim

Mordechai: What's an 'umbrella municipality'

Speaking to parliamentary reporters after the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee meeting, Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai would only say that it is important to strengthen Jerusalem. "I did not understand - and I'm not the only one - what an 'umbrella municipality' means; what it comprises; and where it would lead," he said.

The Labor faction met with former Jerusalem mayor Teddy Kollek yesterday to discuss the annexing communities. Kollek said the decision would not strengthen the city as the government intended. "If you join it up with Ma'aleh Adumim, how can you not join it up with all the Arab neighborhoods between us and Ma'aleh Adumim? That's to say, you don't increase the Jewish majority but decrease it. So there is no point to it from any point of view," he said. Liat Collins

One dead, seven injured in violence near Jenin

By STEVE RODAN and MOHAMMED NAJIB

Palestinian Authority security forces were trying to maintain control of another hot spot in the West Bank yesterday, after weekend clan violence near Jenin resulted in one dead and seven injured.

The battles between two clans in the village of Ajja also resulted in the destruction of seven houses and seven automobiles.

Palestinian sources said tension between the Shehadeh and Khalifa clans erupted Saturday night and continued until early Sunday. Attackers hurled firebombs at the homes of their opponents.

One firebomb killed Samir Mufidi Khalifa, 35, the sources said. Another seven people were reported to be seriously injured.

Jenin Gov. Zuheir Manasra arrived in Ajja with a large force of policemen to stem the violence. Several members of the Shehadeh clan were arrested.

Manasra said the PA will not overlook the fighting and pledged to punish those responsible. He ordered police to deal harshly with any attempt to resume attacks.

"The Palestinian people have enough concerns," he said, "and we will not under any circumstances allow anybody to add to our concerns or violate the security of our people."

In an unrelated development, Palestinian sources said three trucks in the Jabir neighborhood of Hebron were torched on Sunday night. They accused Jewish residents of nearby Kiryat Arba. No arrests have been made.

Settlers to launch anti-Netanyahu street campaign today

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH

Settlers said yesterday they will erect a tent city outside the government offices in Jerusalem this morning and call on Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to "look them in the eye" and ensure Palestinian compliance with the Hebron Agreement before agreeing to a further withdrawal.

Organizers said their protest is not directed against the government but rather to remind Netanyahu of all the promises he made during his election campaign and has yet to fulfill.

Settlers said they were waiting for Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert to grant the permits but were positive he would comply.

Yehudit Tayar, spokeswoman for the Council of Jewish Communities in Judea, Samaria and Gaza said the protest is an attack against Netanyahu's credibility and a reminder that the same people who were instrumental in bringing him to power are still waiting for him to act on his word.

Meanwhile, settlers will also stand at highway intersections throughout the country as part of their current public relations campaign geared at "educating" the public to what a second withdrawal means on the ground and also press the fact that national security will be jeopardized.

Communities from Judea, Samaria and Gaza will send families to sleep in the tents on a rotation basis, she said. Tayar said she is concerned over the present division among council members as to what strategy should be taken in the present situation, adding that members had not unanimously decided to topple the government.

She said some members feel the withdrawal will go ahead anyway, whatever the percentage decided upon, and they should thus withdraw their support from the government.

Others, she said, feel that more pressure should be put on Netanyahu in the hope he will carry out promises he made to the settlers, while others feel that Netanyahu should be replaced at all costs.

Tayar said settlers are concerned that a third withdrawal is slated to take place before talks on the final status begin.

"We are concerned that we will be left with a situation that in May 1999 the interim agreements will collapse, and the issues concerning Jerusalem, the return of refugees and other key issues will fall under the auspices of a totally one-sided agreement," she said. "This is the reason that the nature of the final status talks must be determined before any further withdrawals take place."

Tayar said reports that Netanyahu intends to "sweeten the blow" by granting more permits for settlement construction in Judea and Samaria and directing funds for the construction of bypass roads would have no effect.

"For months now there has been no activity on Har Homa, despite promises by Netanyahu and other government officials," she said. "Although we would gladly receive more permits to build in the Yeshva communities, nothing will sweeten the blow if Netanyahu goes ahead with the withdrawal, especially taking into account that the Palestinians have yet to comply and carry out the commitments they made in the Hebron Agreement."

Harel: PM promises pullback by end of July

By LIAT COLLINS

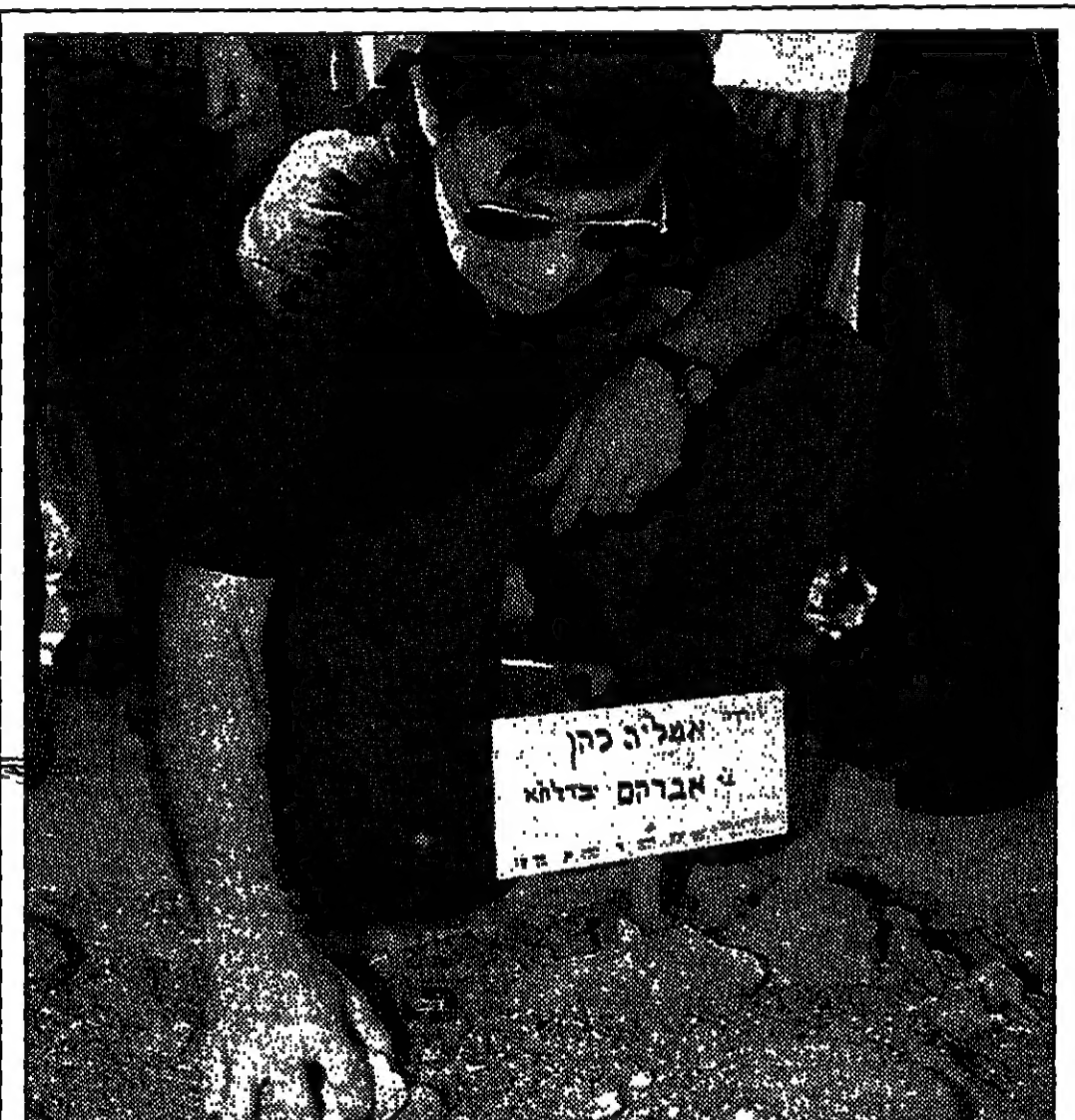
Third Way MK Yehuda Harel said last night that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has agreed to implement the second pullback before the Knesset summer recess which begins at the end of July.

Harel made his statements after meeting Netanyahu yesterday. Earlier in the day, Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai told reporters the government must "make our best effort to move forward on the peace process" with the Palestinians.

"This means that the Palestinians will take the decision to follow the Hebron Agreement and to do everything which has been signed and agreed. They must do it, as we must do everything that is necessary," he said.

Labor MKs also discussed whether they should grant the government a "safety net" if approval for the further redeployment were turned into a motion of no-confidence. The issue was brought up by MK Yossi Beilin, who stuck by his opinion that Labor should not play a part in toppling the government if it presented an acceptable redeployment plan.

"Our public won't understand the game in which we say 'we are in favor of the process but won't support Netanyahu if he presents the agreement,' [because] he won't implement it," Beilin said. MK Ehud Barak said that there is no need to decide until Netanyahu actually presents the redeployment plan. "Why should we decide in advance on something even the ministers don't yet know about," he said.



Amelia Cohen buried

Avraham Cohen mourns at the grave of his daughter Amelia, 9, after her funeral yesterday at Jerusalem's Har Menuchot cemetery. She died Sunday after falling out of a school window last Tuesday. (Isaac Harari)

Sheikh Yassin due back here in 2 days

By STEVE RODAN and MOHAMMED NAJIB

Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, the leader of Hamas, is expected to arrive in Gaza within the next 48 hours, ending weeks of debate within Egypt and Israel over whether to admit the Islamic leader, who returns with millions of dollars in funds from Middle East countries.

Yassin arrived in Egypt yesterday and Hamas sources said he will be there for two or three days for medical tests. He will then return to Gaza via Rafiah.

Yassin said yesterday that Hamas will refuse Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat's invitation to join the cabinet as part of an expected reshuffle. He added that Hamas relations with the PA are not faring well.

"We were always ready for a dialogue to formulate a plan to face the occupation and to resist, but the detention of some Hamas leaders by the PA worsened the relations with the PA," he said. Hamas, said Yassin, has not stopped what he termed the jihad, or holy war, against Israel.

Meanwhile, Arafat continued consultations over the expected ministerial reshuffle. He met last night in Ramallah members with the Fatah Central Committee.

Fatah Secretary for the West Bank Marwan Barghout said Arafat has asked members of the Palestinian Legislative Council to delay a no-confidence motion set for Thursday.

PLC members have given Arafat until Thursday to complete a cabinet reshuffle, but Barghout said Arafat needs more time. The delay, he said, is linked to Arafat's plan to meet with opposition leaders.

So far, no major opposition groups have agreed to join the cabinet.

AP adds: The PA has asked permission for Farouk Kaddoumi, head of the PLO's political bureau, to enter the Palestinian territories, an Israeli official said yesterday.

Kaddoumi, who is based in Tunis, vocally opposes the Oslo Accords.

Shlomo Dror, a spokesman for the military administration in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, said he believed permission would be granted for Kaddoumi's return during the next few days.

There was speculation that Arafat might have invited him as a signal to the Israelis that he might make alliances with hard-liners if the peace process does not move forward.

Arutz 7 suspects maintain silence

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH

Since the start of an police investigation last into whether the Arutz 7 radio station had violated broadcasting laws, 22 people have been questioned, with more scheduled to be questioned, according to national police spokesman Elhan Ben-On.

Since the beginning of the investigation, Ben-On said, all the suspects have exercised their right to remain silent during questioning.

Commenting on the suspects' behavior, Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani said, "The silence of the Arutz 7 people while being questioned by the police is not a wise move."

Yesterday police questioned six people from the station, including managers, broadcasters, technicians and advertising personnel. Seven more staffers, including advertising personnel, have been summoned for today, Ben-On said.

Police will also question the owners of the boats who transport radio personnel from the shore to the ship *Haviv*, he said.

Rabbi Zalman Melamed, who heads the Beit El yeshiva and is a member of the radio station's board of directors was one of those questioned yesterday, as was broadcaster Adir Zik.

Before entering the police station in Petah Tikva, Zik said he would remain silent during questioning, as had the others, because the investigation was clearly a political one.

Before entering Police National Headquarters in Jerusalem, where he was questioned, Melamed said "I am coming not to be questioned, but to question who it is who would shut the mouths of such a large public that wants a particular type of media that they cannot receive anywhere else."

Scores of yeshiva students accompanied Melamed to police headquarters, singing Arutz 7 jingles and other songs.

Mordechai, Sarid exchange barbs

By LIAT COLLINS

A barbed exchange between Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai and Meretz leader Yossi Sarid took place at the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee meeting yesterday. It later spilled out into the corridors.

The phrase which attracted most attention came from Sarid, who told Mordechai, "I am forced to reach the conclusion that you are (Prime Minister Benjamin) Netanyahu's collaborator."

"Mordechai travels to neighboring countries scattering promises and commitments which are baseless, not founded in reality. To give out baseless promises, we don't need Mordechai. At this, Benjamin Netanyahu is the best," Sarid later told reporters.

Mordechai reacted by saying, "I'm very happy to be the collaborator - with or without quote marks - of the Israeli government and to be the defense minister who makes a great effort at the right defense and diplomatic policy."

"I reminded MK Yossi Sarid that it is the person who is a collaborator, who would be a collaborator, and who wanders around in the places where collaborators are, who should examine himself. I reminded him that in Operations Accountability and Grapes of Wrath and in Kfar Kana during the government in which he himself was a member and whose policies he opposed, not only did he not resign, he even stayed on to support it."

Mordechai said he remains in the government to influence it. Several other opposition MKs - including Ran Cohen and Haim Ramon - attacked Mordechai, mainly for remaining in the government after saying several months ago he would resign if the redeployment did not go ahead within three months.

Mordechai said the negotiations with the Palestinians are centering on three elements: reciprocity at the second further redeployment stage; talks with the US on the third redeployment; and how the process will look after May 1999.

During the main part of the meeting, a senior military intelligence officer reportedly told the committee that Syria would soon be capable of producing for itself C-Scud missiles and Bx-type nerve gas.

Mordechai said Syria is continuing to hold military exercises and to equip itself with anti-tank weapons, which can be seen as defensive measures although they can also be used to attack.

The senior intelligence officer said there are no concrete signs that Syria is preparing for war and it appears to continue to prefer the diplomatic rather than the military option.

that members of the public would be asked to vote "yes" or "no" on the question of whether they approve of the agreement reached by the government on the second redeployment. After the results of the referendum are in, the Knesset would be asked to vote on the redeployment agreement; that vote would be binding.

"This is not a stalling tactic," Livnat said.

Hagai Merom was the only Labor MK to come out in support of a referendum, which he said is a useful constitutional instrument, especially since the Knesset does not reflect the public's will.

Steve Rodan adds: Palestinian Authority Secretary-General Ahmed Abdul Rahman said the idea is an attempt by Israel to avoid honoring its commitment to further redeployment and to gain time to expand settlements.

Hanegbi and Livnat explained

REFERENDUM

Continued from Page 1

"The pullback is not a completed thing, and I don't know if one can hold a referendum on a partial issue. I have doubts," he said.

Weizman noted if the referendum contributes to the peace process, he would not object, "but if I see it's a way to waste time, I won't be pleased."

Labor MKs said the idea is a delaying tactic and predicted it would be wasteful.

"Only a sleepwalking government can take a question to which the answer is as clear as day, and throw away NIS 100 million on a referendum," Barak said. He added that the only referendum needed is on the government's continued term - elections.

He called on the government to "stop hiding behind gimmicks and

advisory referendums and embarrassing delaying tactics and face the public with its policy - or rather lack of policy," in elections.

Hanegbi, however, said: "Even though it would only be advisory, this type of referendum would have a profound influence [on MKs]."

"The government would not be able to ignore its results. The positive thing about it is that it can be carried out in a relatively tolerable amount of time, it involves the six million citizens of Israel in the decision, and it will soften the raging disputes which we are bound to face following the government's dramatic decision," he said.

Government officials estimated it would be possible to hold the referendum within two months of passage of the law and that it would cost NIS 100 million, excluding campaign costs.

Hanegbi and Livnat explained

With deep sorrow we announce the passing of

LOTTE RUTH (Lolo) KLEEMANN

after a long and severe illness.

The funeral will take place today, Tuesday, June 23, 1998, at 12:30 p.m., at the Sdeh Yehoshua Cemetery, Haifa, Oren Gate.

Deeply mourned by:

Husband: Theo
Children: Ronith and Micha Shemer
Doron and Sarale Kleemann
Shimon, Ophir and families
Grandchildren: Guy, Tal, Karen and Amit
Brothers- & sisters-in-law: Werner Kleeman, NY
Sigi and Betty Kleeman, Baltimore
Al and Claire Kleeman, Baltimore
Ruth Bauman, Baltimore

Shiva at "Pisgat Ahuva B", 6 Sinai Avenue, Apt. 652, Haifa.

We mourn the passing of

ROSE FACKENHEIM

who passed away after prolonged illness on June 21, 1998

The funeral will take place today at 11 a.m. at Beit Hespel, Givat Shaul, opposite Herzog hospital
Mourned by Emil Fackenheim and family

The overall American population increased from 144 million in 1948 to 267 million in 1997. In the same 50 years, the Jewish population instead of increasing from 6 million to 11 million, decreased to 5 million. The Jews of America are assimilating rapidly and have become a vanishing minority. To survive as Jews they must return to Israel.

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Lawyer representing 31,000 survivors to Swiss banks:

Settle soon or we're in court

By ELLI WOHLGELER

The lawyer who filed the class-action suit against Swiss and German banks and against insurance companies for stealing the assets of Holocaust victims has called the current negotiations "foolishness," and has threatened to request a US court order for the banks to open up their records.

"If the banks want to negotiate in good faith, it can be over in a matter of months," said Ed Fagan, the lead attorney in the case. "If not, we're in court in July saying enough of this foolishness, the negotiations have broken down, and we want discovery to start right now."

"So either they settle the case, or the thing they're most afraid of, which is discovery, is going to happen... [because] when they open their records, the case is over."

Fagan also accused Paul Volcker, the former US Federal Reserve chairman who is heading an audit of all Swiss banks, of dragging his feet in the investigation of the three largest Swiss banks and for his apparent conflict of interest.

"There's been no audits of big banks, and they want us to accept an offer without a promise of what Volcker is going to find," Fagan said at a news conference yesterday at the Ramada

Renaissance Hotel in Jerusalem. "Why did he wait a year and a half to audit the three banks that are the subjects of the class-action law suits?"

"It makes me wonder whether Volcker's not favoring some of the banks in Switzerland over others. This is the same Volcker who sits on the board of directors of companies where the board of directors of these banks sit. This is a very small fraternity that is controlling this, and it's time that it be opened up so people can see."

Fagan said that without a bottom-line number from Volcker as to how much money these banks have, it is impossible for the 31,000 claimants that he repre-

sents — who he said are dying at the rate of five to 10 a day — to accept any offer.

"Unless they commit to how much Mr. Volcker's going to be able to find, it's an inaccurate, incomplete offer," Fagan said. "Unless Mr. Volcker tells us how much is there, the survivors can't make an intelligent decision."

On Thursday, Credit Suisse, Swiss Bank Corporation and Union Bank made a \$600 million offer — "it's really \$530m., the banks have this wonderful way of playing games with the way they calculate numbers" — for a final settlement.

Fagan said there are two claims involved — deposited assets and

looted assets.

"They made an offer on the looted assets, which is not enough. But they didn't make an offer on the deposited assets, and that's a part of what this is all about. We're not interested in running around and beating up the banks and saying you were Nazis — they weren't Nazis, they were bankers for Nazis."

Fagan said that when it comes to discussing settlement figures, "the banks have a real hard time using the 'B' word — billions. They just can't say it. They can make the profits, but they can't say the word. They are also going to have a problem saying we're sorry. Have you heard them say that?"

Recess no-confidence votes deemed legal

By LIAT COLLINS

It is possible to file a no-confidence motion in the prime minister during a Knesset recess, although this has never been done and there has been a tradition of holding no-confidence motions only during a regular sitting, Knesset legal adviser Zvi Inbar yesterday told the Knesset House Committee yesterday.

Committee chairman Raphael Pinhasi (Shas) decision that the vote on the whether to accept this as a practice will be held next week, because a large number of MKs are absent for the Zichron Ya'akov economic conference.

The Knesset yesterday passed a no-confidence motion for the fourth consecutive week, however the vote — 22-6 with one abstention — was far from the 61 MKs needed to topple the government.

The idea of a no-confidence motion in the recess was raised by Zvi Hendel (National Religious Party) and Haim Ramon (Labor), both of whom related to the possibility that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu might bring the second redeployment to the vote just before the end of the Knesset sitting, at the end of July. Ramon said this way Netanyahu could postpone the implementa-

tion of the redeployment if there is a no-confidence motion that could not be heard until the Knesset returns in late October, while Hendel said Netanyahu could carry out the redeployment in the knowledge that he could not be toppled in a no-confidence motion for several months.

Inbar's ruling was criticized by Speaker Dan Tichon who said he had not submitted his opinion to the Speaker's Office before the debate. Tichon later said the Knesset operates according to both the House Rules and tradition, and traditionally no-confidence motions are not held during a recess.

He also noted the issue had been examined and rejected several times before. He said he had raised it as an opposition member in 1993, but then-speaker Shevah Weiss (Labor) had rejected it after consulting with leading legal minds.

"I advise against changing the rules of the game. When you start changing the rules when it's convenient, you ruin the whole framework and I'm afraid for the democratic framework. If you change the rules like this, the House Rules will be lost, as everyone will change them to suit themselves," Tichon said.

Knesset women's committee marks Gay Pride Week

By LIAT COLLINS

Although yesterday's meeting of the Knesset Committee for the Status of Women was dedicated to homosexual, lesbian and bisexual artists, perhaps the most famous of them all — transgender singer Dana International — was unable to attend.

On the occasion of gay pride week, International sent the committee a letter explaining she is abroad to promote her record following her Eurovision Song Contest triumph.

"Everywhere Israeli flags are waved with pride, and today more than ever, our friends abroad understand that Israel is an enlightened country and despite generally legitimate differences of opinion, most Israelis are open, broad-minded people who are a homogeneous part of Europe," International wrote.

She concluded her letter by adopting the Jubilee slogan: "Together in pride, together in hope."

Committee chairwoman Yael Dayan said the meeting's discussion of art and creativity among homosexuals, lesbians and bisexuals demonstrates their "separate identity" as a community with song, literature, cinema and art.

Menschen Sheizaf, chairperson of the Association of Homosexuals, Lesbians and Bisexuals in Israel, said "We are still lacking a homosexual or lesbian MK. The time has come, in Israel of the late 20th century, for MKs to also come out of the closet."



Avinof Frumer (l) and Alex Poleg take part in gay pride week at the Knesset yesterday.

(Brian Hendler)

Dayan and MK Naomi Chazan (Meretz) agreed that homosexuals and lesbians should be

encouraged to run in the municipal elections. Michael Eden, a representative of "the lesbian-feminist commu-

nity," who is running for the position of deputy mayor of Tel Aviv, met with broad support. "Our struggle is not just for equal

rights but also for culture. We want cultural recognition and Yael Dayan is breaking open the way," she said.

Law makes it compulsory to give emergency help

From now on, you're not only morally obliged to help a person in danger, you're legally obliged. The Knesset last night passed by 16-5 a bill known in Hebrew as *Lo Ta'amod Bedan Re'echa*, literally "Don't stand by your friend's blood."

Under the law, which was submitted by Knesset Law Committee head Hanan Porat (National Religious Party), any person who sees someone in life-threatening danger and does not offer help will be liable to a fine to be determined by the court.

The maximum fine is not written in the bill and will be decided by the justice minister in special regulations.

Yemenite children
"DNA tests carried out in England on the remains taken from two graves of Yemenite children

show no genetic relationship between the bodies and two Yemenite families whose children disappeared," Dr. Maya Freund, director of Forensic

Institute's biological unit, told the Knesset Immigration and Absorption Committee yesterday. Drora Nehmani Roth, senior deputy to the Jerusalem regional attorney in the Justice Ministry, told the committee that the commission of inquiry is looking into ways of holding investigations in foreign countries to expose possible cases of children who were kidnapped and sent abroad for adoption. "This in view of the reports that Rabbi Bergman from Canada cooperated with people in the Israeli establishment and sent children for adoption in Canada and the US in return for financial gain," she said.

HEBREW PRESS REVIEW

By ORLY AHARONI

A greater Jerusalem

"If you cannot convince them, confuse them," Yediot Aharonot's Nahum Barnea quotes President Harry Truman's suggestion, attributing its implementation to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, in his plan to annex land around Jerusalem via an umbrella municipality.

Barnea claims that while there may be several reasons to strengthen the city, this plan is primarily meant to strengthen Netanyahu and Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert.

Barnea adds that the annexation plan is undemocratic: the city is

chasing those who chose to leave. In its editorial entitled, "A political and urban mistake," *Ha'aretz* justifies the criticism conveyed by US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright who claimed that the move is meant to tamper with the Oslo agreement.

"When the government confirmed the development plan, it assisted Netanyahu in placing another obstacle on the way to the advancement of the peace process," the paper says. It adds that further damage will be done both to the residents of Jerusalem and those annexed, who will suffer a lower quality of life, and that the plan the planning process more cumbersome.

"Good-bye olive trees, good-bye gardens...foxes, hedgehogs and turtles, uncle Olmert has arrived," writes Amos Keinan, a resident of Upper Motza, in *Yediot*.

Settler's agenda

Posters calling Uri Elitzur "Josephus" to protest his attempts to promote Netanyahu's second redeployment plan must be rejected, claims Elyakim Haetzni in *Yediot*.

Nonetheless, Haetzni criticizes Elitzur's betrayal of the settlers that he had presumed to represent.

"Beyond the argument over Elitzur's reasoning, his conduct suffers a heavy immoral blemish...his aggressive performance as an agent of the 'opposite side' conveys signs of painful and bitter betrayal."

Ma'ariv's Yosef Lapid states that the conflict between Elitzur and the settlers reflects the "rupture within the Right between those who acknowledge the facts of life and those who cling to unrealistic ideals."

Winds of change?

The World Cup game between the US and Iran was considered

by commentators to be more than just a game, who noted the friendly atmosphere that prevailed, saying it reflected the willingness of both countries to begin a reconciliation process.

"Iran asks to transfer the small game on the field in Lyon to the big game on the White House lawn," declares *Ha'aretz's* Zvi Barel, who adds that this time Iran is not facing a wall, but a Washington open to dialogue.

"It seems that if [US President Bill] Clinton will leave behind him a legacy, in addition to the Lewinsky affair and the [scandals relating to] contributions to the Democratic Party, he will leave a significant reconciliation with

Iran." *Yediot's* Yuval Natan states that the players were very civil to one another and "in general, didn't seem like the people who would open... World War III."

Ma'ariv's Cheri Shalev writes that a reconciliation between the US and Iran would have historic significance for Israel and the whole region. He therefore argues that the best result for the game would have been "a boring 0-0."

Ha'aretz's Akiva Eldar reveals that the coordinator of operations in Lebanon, Uri Lubrani has been making great efforts to chill US enthusiasm to Iran's new government. He says that Lubrani wants the

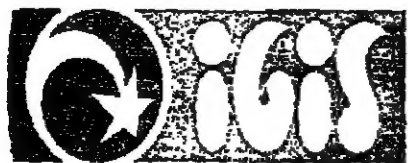
US to base its judgment on the Iranians' actions instead of their performance in interviews for CNN or on the soccer field.

Watching the menu

The criticism of Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi for eating in a nonkosher seafood restaurant "is a new level of insolence, of invading the individual's rights," states Yisrael Aharoni in *Yediot*.

Aharoni describes a new type of censorship, "dish censorship," under which people are scrutinizing and criticizing one's choices of food.

First 20 million.
Then the World Cup.
From the Lotto



Mifal Hapayis

Tickets on sale today until 10 p.m.
Draw will be broadcast at around 10:50 p.m.

Draw today ■ Draw no. 25/98



Amirs appeal Rabin murder sentences

DAN IZENBERG

The Supreme Court yesterday began hearing the appeals and counter-appeals of Yigal Amir, his brother Haggai Amir, and their friend, Dror Hadani. The session came more than 18 months after they were sentenced to jail on conspiracy and other charges.

Yigal Amir, who was convicted of Rabin's murder in a separate trial, was also sentenced by Tel Aviv District Court to five years for conspiracy to attack Palestinians. Haggai Amir was sentenced to 12 years in prison for conspiracy to kill Rabin and attack Palestinians, and for the illegal possession, transport and manufacture of weapons. Dror Hadani was sentenced to 5 years on charges of conspiring to kill Rabin and attack Palestinians and for illegal possession of weapons.

The appellants' lawyers, Shmuel Fleischmann, Moshe Meroz and Zion Amir asked the court to overturn the district court decisions or, at least, to reduce the sentences handed out.

The state, represented by Penina Guy, said the court had erred in handing out overly lenient sentences to the Amir brothers and asked it to substantially increase their prison terms.

The three prisoners attended the six-hour hearing. Yigal and Haggai Amir's father, Shlomo, was also there.

Fleischmann, representing Yigal Amir, told Justices Eliahu Matza, Ya'acov Kedmi and Hanoch Ariele that the district court had erred in its decision because "until now, no person has been convicted of conspiracy to commit a crime some time in the distant future."

He also argued that it would have taken many more than three people to carry out the kinds of attacks that the three were allegedly planning. He argued that the state must not become "thought police," who punish citizens for ideas that are not im-



Back in court: Yigal Amir, the assassin of Yitzhak Rabin, and his brother Haggai (l), consult with their lawyer at the Supreme Court yesterday during the appeal of their sentences.

possible to implement, just to preoccupy his brother.

Amir argued that Hadani had told the police all along he had been opposed to Rabin's murder. He said Hadani had consulted with the head of his yeshiva at Sha'alvim, Rabbi Moshe Zuriel, and been told that Rabin must not be killed because he represented half the nation.

Amir said that Hadani went to the Amir's home because he was looking for a wife and became involved in two conversations regarding Rabin which incriminated him. He had asked the

brothers to introduce him to their sister. Amir described Hadani as "a victim of love."

Guy rejected the arguments of the three attorneys and said the lower court had ruled correctly. She said all three had taken substantive steps to prepare themselves for the attack on Palestinians and that they were moving swiftly to act in the near future.

Among other things, she said they had tried to enlist other people to their cause and had prepared a silencer for their planned shooting practices. In addition to

his requests to revoke or shorten the sentence against his client, Meroz asked the court to order Avishai Raviv to testify in the case.

Meroz said Raviv had been present during some of the discussions between Yigal and Haggai Amir and could testify that Haggai had tried to dissuade Yigal from trying to kill Rabin. He charged that the district court had improperly banned Raviv from testifying in public at Haggai Amir's trial, even though at the time it was not yet certain that Raviv was a Shin Bet agent.

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NEWS

in brief

Remand of wife-killer extended

The remand of Stanislav Mashchirakov, 35, of Beersheba, who has allegedly beat his eight-months-pregnant wife Alla to death earlier this month, was extended by four days by Beersheba Magistrate's Court yesterday. Mashchirakov, who police say has confessed and reenacted the crime, did not object to the extension. *Itim*

Fire sweeps southern Golan Heights

Dozens of firemen, volunteers, and soldiers fought a huge brush fire on the southern Golan Heights yesterday. At one stage, the fire threatened Kibbutz Kfar Haruv. IAF helicopters and light planes were called in to douse the flames, and the fire was stopped from reaching the kibbutz. The blaze, which destroyed over 2,500 dunams of brush and grazing land, was eventually brought under control. *David Rudge*

Police crack stolen car ring

Police in the North have cracked a ring believed to be responsible for selling scores of stolen cars to customers who believed they were buying used cars. Three suspects have been arrested. The three allegedly stole cars which they transferred to the territories, then bought back for a minimal fee after the license plates and chassis numbers had been changed. They then took out new registration forms and then sold the cars. Police have recovered 13 vehicles. Detectives believe that the turnover from the scam was at least NIS 2 million. *David Rudge*

Grenades found in TA couple's car

Two grenades were found in a Tel Aviv couple's car yesterday. Police theorized that the attempted murder was part of a financial dispute between the husband and a grey market moneylender. The couple parked their car, then left to run errands. But the wife, who had forgot something in the car, went back for it and noticed a grenade. She summoned the police, and the grenade was disarmed. During their search, the police discovered a second grenade. *Itim*

Rabin, NYC's Montefiore now 'twin' hospitals

New York's Montefiore Medical Center has been twinned with the Rabin Medical Center in Petah Tikva. The hospital, affiliated with Yeshiva University's Albert Einstein College of Medicine, is especially noted for its oncological treatment and its expertise in treating liver and kidney diseases. It and the Rabin Medical Center, following yesterday's signing of a formal agreement, will cooperate in bio-medical research, treatment of patients, and organizing of general medical services. *Judy Siegel*

Reform rabbis weigh more traditional observance

By TOM TUGEND

ANAHEIM, Calif. — Charting a course toward greater traditional observance of Jewish religious law and ritual, the president of the American Reform movement has urged its adherents to renew the bond among all Jews "who stood at Sinai" and to "proclaim that Torah is our center."

Rabbi Richard N. Levy, in addressing 600 Reform rabbis at the annual convention of the Central Conference of American Rabbis yesterday, also held out an olive branch to a frequent antagonist by calling on his organization to make "a concerted effort to reach out to Orthodox rabbis."

Levy urged increased attention to tradition among the CCAR's 1.5 million congregants, including to dietary laws and religious garb.

Today and tomorrow, the rabbis will buckle down to consider potentially divisive issues that will affect their relationship to other branches of Judaism and probably to the State of Israel.

The most explosive item on the agenda — whether Reform rabbis

can sanctify marriages of gay or lesbian couples — has been defused by not putting the issue to a vote.

Not scheduled on the original agenda is a last-minute "emergency resolution" on the conversion bill pending in the Knesset. Representatives of a rabbinical Reform mission, just returned from Israel, are expected to report on their findings and experiences.

The convention will revisit the policy on patrilineal descent, under which children of a Jewish father and non-Jewish mother are recognized as Jewish, provided they are so educated and identify publicly as Jews.

There is no move to rescind this policy, but it is expected that a committee will be named to clarify the guidelines governing its application and to consider changing the terminology to "equilineal descent," or just "Jewish descent."

A report by the Ethics Committee will recommend stricter conditions before a rabbi expelled for sexual misconduct can be readmitted to the CCAR.

Less controversial are proposed resolutions calling for full reli-

gious freedom in Israel, support of the peace process, and equality for Reform synagogues in Germany.

In an interview, Levy rejected the notion that he was advocating a radical break with the principles that have guided the Reform movement. The 19th century founders, he said, believed that God's will was expressed through an ever higher level of ethical values, while the Torah, as they put it, "reflected the primitive ideas of its own age."

However, Levy believes, the founders left open the possibility that future changes and revelations might call for different attitudes. In an age that believed that "the spirit of broad humanity" would bring about the Messianic age, the Torah didn't speak to the founders, Levy said.

"It clearly does appeal to us in our days...because we know that our people are crying out to elevate their lives in a culture fraught with banality and violence," he

said.

In offering Reform Jews the option of more traditional observances, Levy believes he is reflecting a shift in Reform practice that has already been underway for the past 25 years.

"We have changed without people realizing how much we have changed," he said. "We have embraced more Hebrew in our services, where you can see many more people with kippa and tallit than a generation ago."

Final draft of conversion bill being prepared

The Knesset Law Committee is today to begin preparing the final draft of a bill which will grant the Chief Rabbinate a monopoly on state-recognized conversions and incorporate the findings of the Ne'eman Committee.

The amendment to the Rabbinical Courts Jurisdiction (Marriage and Divorce) Law was passed in first reading on April 1, 1997. The procedure was then suspended to allow the Ne'eman Committee to find a consensual solution to the dispute between the Orthodox, Conservative, and

Reform streams over the right to convert in Israel, which threatened to split world Jewry.

The committee prepared recommendations, but its members did not sign them. Recently the Reform and Conservative movements resumed court cases on the conversion issue which had been suspended while the Ne'eman Committee was meeting. In retaliation, the government decided to resume the legislative process, but added the committee's recommendations to the bill. *Dan Izenberg*



Pardes Katz gang leader Yitzhak Hadif (left) and his brother Shalom examine documents in Tel Aviv District Court yesterday.

Seven indicted in Givatayim gangland shooting

Seven people were indicted in Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court yesterday in the attempted murder of underworld figure Roni Harari, a member of the Amidar gang, in a Givatayim coffeehouse on May 5. Two men entered the coffeehouse and fired at Harari, lightly wounding him and also wounding 10 others.

Indicted on charges of attempted murder, causing severe injury, carrying and using illegal weapons, receiving stolen property, and criminal conspiracy were Yitzhak Hadif, 27, of Bnei Brak, leader of the rival Pardes Katz gang; and gang members Dotan Shukrun, 21, of Hod Hasharon; Moshe Avitan, 32, of Rehovot; Shalom Hadif 35, of Bnei Brak; Avi Rohan, 35, of Ra'anana; and Moshe Beit-Adah, 21, of

Bnei Brak.

Yitzhak Hadif's girlfriend, lawyer Nurit Buchnik, 29, of Ramat Gan, was charged with criminal conspiracy and obstruction of justice. She allegedly utilized her attorney-client privilege to meet with Hadif and pass messages from him to his fellow gang members.

Buchnik was also cited for contempt of a civil servant because she referred to investigator Supt. Yigal Ben-Shalom as "Hitler," and the lead investigator, Ch. Supt. Efraim Bracha as "Eichmann."

The prosecution asked that the gang members be jailed until trial. Buchnik, on grounds of poor health, has been placed under house arrest. She was not at yesterday's arraignment. *(Itim)*

Victim of attempted rape spots alleged assailant in police station

By DAVID RUDGE

A teenage victim of an attempted rape by a man who gave her a lift spotted the suspect over a week later in the corridor of the Zevulun police station in Haifa's seaside district. It was revealed yesterday.

The suspect, 24, from Yafia village near Nazareth, was arrested in connection with the incident, which occurred earlier this month.

Police said that the girl, 17, had lodged a complaint about the alleged attempted rape on June 13, saying she had hitched a ride from the Yafia area towards Haifa that same evening.

The driver had pulled off the road and started to molest her.

A passing driver saw what was happening and went to the aid of the girl, who in the meantime managed to flee her assailant.

The suspect sped from the scene, but the passer-by noted the license plate of the vehicle and gave it to police.

The vehicle was traced to Yafia and its owner was detained. He denied the allegations and his brother was asked to come to the police station to support the man's alibi.

Meanwhile, the girl had been called the station to give further evi-

dence. While she was waiting in the corridor, she spotted the brother of the car's owner, and identified him as the assailant, police said.

Haifa police also said that the four Daliat al-Carmel youths suspected of gang-raping a 15-year-old girl and assaulting her boyfriend in the Mt. Carmel Forest early Saturday morning had all confessed and had re-enacted the brutal attack.

The suspects are all 18, and recent high school graduates. Three were remanded yesterday for four days by the Haifa Magistrate's Court. The fourth suspect appeared in court Sunday and remanded for seven days.

Katsav: Pope still expected here in 2000

By HAIM SHAPIRO

The Foreign Ministry is insisting that Pope John Paul II is preparing to visit here during the year 2000, despite disclaimers from Church spokesmen, Tourism Minister Moshe Katsav said yesterday.

Katsav was speaking at a new conference on preparations for visitors in 2000.

Monsignor Eugene Nugent, the Holy See's charge d'affaires in Israel, said yesterday, however, that according to the latest information he has, the current political conditions do not favor a papal visit.

Nugent said he could only repeat what Archbishop Jean-Louis Tauran, the Holy See's Secretary of Relations between States, had said in April: That in today's political context, the conditions necessary for a papal visit do not exist.

Nugent specifically mentioned what he called the frustration of both Palestinians and Israelis regarding the peace process.

"If the Holy Father comes here, he comes as a pilgrim. He wants to come as a symbol of peace and not be exploited for political opportunism," Nugent said.

However, Shlomo Ilya, chairman of the 2000 Administration, reported that during a recent visit to the Vatican, he found officials there preparing for a visit here by the pope.

Ilya said that senior Church officials spoke of a "regional visit," rather than a specific visit to

Israel.

Recently, the president of the Vatican's Grand Jubilee Committee, Cardinal Roger Etchegaray, visited Iraq to explore the possibility of a papal visit there. Nugent said yesterday that it was possible the pope would visit Iraq in order to follow the footsteps of Abraham.

Tourism Ministry Director-General Shabtai Shai said the ministry expects some four million visitors, most of them Christian pilgrims, during the year 2000. He added, however, that the ministry was making contingency plans — such as arranging accommodations in kibbutzim and moshavim — for a greater number of pilgrims, who would come if the pope does visit, and if the peace process moves forward.

However, Katsav said, there are still problems to be solved, including what to do with all the sewage that would be created by masses of pilgrims converging around Lake Kinneret.

The ministry is also working with the Interior Ministry on ways to speed up the processing of incoming passengers at Ben-Gurion Airport.

Katsav reported that talks with the Palestinians on the passage of pilgrims to Bethlehem were only in the preliminary stages, although, he said, the talks were being held at the highest levels.

"We want to reach a good understanding with the Palestinians. We don't want to have a sensitive situation," Katsav said.

Bone-marrow donor needed

By JUDY SIEGEL

A nationwide campaign to find a bone-marrow donor for leukemia patient Keren Ronnen-Rosenberg — a wife and mother of two young children — will be held next Monday in four Magen David Adom centers.

Volunteers 18 to 50 who are of Central European origin are urged to give a small blood sample, which will be rushed to the US for

testing. If a suitable donor is found, a small amount of bone marrow will be removed under spinal anesthesia, with no after effects other than mild discomfort for a few days.

Ronnen-Rosenberg, a weaver who teaches at Shenkar College, is the daughter of Jerusalem Post and Yediot Aharanot cartoonist Meir Ronnen. Data banks with millions of potential donors have been scoured for a suitable match, so far without success. The campaign organizers say she needs a transplant within three weeks.

Those willing to give a blood sample should go between 3 p.m. and 8 p.m. to the MDA station in Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, or Haifa, or to the central blood bank at Sheba Hospital.

Local gov't plan would merge small towns

Numerous small towns would be united to create larger towns and cities that could deliver services more cheaply and efficiently, under a plan submitted yesterday to Interior Minister Eli Shussman by a government-appointed committee.

The committee, headed by Prof. Arye Shalev, recommended greatly reducing the number of local authorities with fewer than 10,000 residents, and to eventually merge all localities with less than 3,000 residents to adjacent communities.

There are currently 265 local and regional councils, 60 of which have fewer than 10,000 residents. Specific recommendations made in the report include:

• Merging the following towns

into one city: Kiryat Ono, Ganei Tikva, Savoyon, Ganei Yehuda, Yehud, Neveh Monosson, Or Yehuda, Kiryat Krimitzki, and Sheba Hospital in Tel Hashomer.

Uniting the Haifa Bay suburbs to create one city.

• Merging Daliat al-Carmel and Ushfa into a city.

Shalev said that implementation of the committee's recommendations would only begin after November's municipal elections, with an eye toward having at least some of the mergers in place for the following local elections, in 2003.

Five other committees are actively working on municipal mergers outside the framework of the Shalev Committee, planning

such mergers as that of Maccabim and Reut with the city of Modi'in.

Adi Eldar, chairman of the Union of Local Authorities in Israel, said yesterday that ULAI in principal supports any step that would make local government more efficient and responsive to residents' needs.

He warned, however, that the money saved by such mergers must remain available to local government, and not used to fund coalition agreements or "plug holes" in the national budget.

Sussman promised to leave all savings with the local governments, saying that without an express commitment from the Treasury to this effect, the merger process would not be carried out. *(Itim)*

Give Soldiers Lifts

Klaus bounces back

The Czech Republic is the only state of the old Eastern Europe that has kept a right-wing government in power throughout the decade since the fall of Communism.

Before this weekend's elections, it seemed that voters were tired of Prime Minister Vaclav Klaus's mismanagement, alleged party corruption, and stalled economy.

That was why the election was two years early. Klaus's right-wing coalition carved in beneath charges that his Civic Democratic Party had swapped privatization favors in exchange for cash in the party coffers. That was also why that the opposition Social Democrats won the largest share of the vote this weekend.

Simplicity stops here. Klaus is the Czech that bounced back. What the electorate has actually done is to split the vote so drastically that he might get to be prime minister again.

Pain of victory

The parliament has 200 seats representing the 10 million Czechs. Social Democrats won first place - 74 seats. Klaus's Civic Democrats won 63. The numbers crunch lies with the minor players.

What's left of the Communist Party (as reformed as its name) came third with 24 seats. Fourth were the Christian Democrats (rural, religious and therefore center-right), 20 seats. The rightist Freedom Union, which abandoned the Klaus coalition and forced the election, won 19 seats. No other party passed the five percent threshold needed to enter the Chamber of Deputies. Surprisingly, that included the ultra-right Republicans who had 18 seats in the last parliament, and the new and leftist Pensioners Party, whose 10 percent in the pre-election public opinion polls turned out to be an urban legend when the real votes were counted.

So the Social Democrats came first; so what? "We have suffered a victory," said the party spokesman with commendable Czech black humor, "a Pyrrhic victory." Party leader Milos Zeman will be offered the courtesy of the first attempt to form a new government by President Vaclav Havel. But it is Mr. Klaus who holds most of the coalition cards, and they are rightist blue, not socialist red.

So what went wrong with the election if the public was so fed up? Most of the blame rests with the party that came first, but not first enough.

Not proven

The Social Democrats ran a campaign bordering on the hysterical - doom-laden threats of disaster mixed with wild promises of instant prosperity. The voters wanted change, but the socialists had forgotten to take their "get real" pills.

Whatever his alleged faults, Klaus must be credited with a

remarkable comeback. His party hit 10% support in opinion polls last February, but he has managed to return with only 2% less than he won during the 1996 general election. It is obvious the voters were not prepared to find Klaus guilty of incompetence and corruption as charged in the Court of Impeachment.

At worst the cloud over his head remains a Scottish verdict of "not proven." And despite a pro-anti Klaus split in his own party, he still has enough clout to block others from taking over leadership of the right. None of the leading parties wants to associate with communists and the

most important power brokers are the Christian Democrats - the party of farmers and Roman Catholics. Their leader, Josef Lux, is sitting on the fence at present. Yes, he could form a program with the socialists, on the other hand he is not ruling out negotiations with the right ("if Klaus loses the arrogance," he added.)

Freedom first

Arrogant or not, Klaus is an interesting character and not one to be glibly dismissed with political clichés. He became finance minister in 1990, shortly after the fall of Communism and before the split with Slovakia on January 1, 1993.

Two years later he was prime minister and rapidly became a much admired proponent of Europe's classical liberalism. This now is seen as intellectually conservative, if not rightist, but has been the springboard for the great liberal revolutions against tyranny of all stripes in the West, of which the Czechs' own Velvet Revolution was only the most recent.

Klaus published a book of essays and speeches (most of them written or spoken in English) called "Renaissance: The Rebirth of Liberty in the Heart of Europe." Margaret Thatcher called Klaus "one of the most remarkable political figures of our time." Former US secretary of state George Shultz called his essays "an inspiring blend of ideas and action... and of belief in the essence of freedom." Nobel laureate James Buchanan said: "Well might other nations wish for political leaders who profoundly understand the foundations of a free society." "We are sometimes accused of forgetting to mention adjectives other than 'free,'" wrote Klaus. "I believe it is sufficient to guarantee freedom. As to individual happiness, that's up to each of us." Whether he stages his comeback or not, the media might take a pause from the gossip and criticisms and remember that Vaclav Klaus is yet another Czech patriot of great vision and accomplishment. His country owes him at least a pause for a vote of thanks before the next round of wrestling in the political snake-pits begins.

Column One



Thomas O'Dwyer

More than a sliver of land

Behind the Ethiopian-Eritrean war lie basic economic interests

By JOHN DANISZEWSKI

MAKELE, Ethiopia - Outside Ayder Elementary School, the grounds are pocked with holes, each innocuous-looking depression representing a crater left by a cluster bomb.

In recent days, there was a hailstorm of explosives here that sent glass, rocks and searing, twisted metal flying helter-skelter among classroom buildings. The spray ripped through doors, concrete-block walls - and children.

"This was barbarism. There was no fighting near here," said Desalegn Fisahe, a spokesman for the government of northern Ethiopia's Tigray province, looking with indignation at the scene where more than a dozen pupils were wounded or killed in an Eritrean air attack June 5.

The bombing of Makele, which killed at least 47 people, and a subsequent aerial attack that killed four people Thursday at Adigrat, 50 miles to the north, are part of a nasty border war that has broken out between Ethiopia and Eritrea, a former province.

The war between the two former friends is not only a human tragedy, it also is a setback for US foreign policy, which had banked on Ethiopia and Eritrea to be partners in creating a new zone of stability in the famine-and-war-plagued Horn of Africa.

To outside observers, the war has been mystifying. Why should two of the planet's poorest countries, which only recently began rebuilding from decades of war and stagnation, choose to fight over a few hundred square miles of remote, semiarid land?

Ethiopia calls it "insanity" and says it was attacked without provocation; Eritrea says that it is duty-bound to assert control over an area it was rightfully due under 19th-century treaties.

But Desalegn and many residents here discern more in the recent bombings than a dispute over frontiers. They think Eritrea is motivated primarily by economics - that it is lashing out against Ethiopia's Tigray province, in part out of frustration with a region that could become a commercial rival.

Tigray, Ethiopia's northernmost province, adjoins Eritrea. It traditionally has been known for growing grain and raising cattle and sheep. But lately, attention has shifted here to industry. Ethiopian Prime Minister Meles Zenawi is a Tigrayan, and, under his leadership, the central government in Addis Ababa has been funneling more resources to the far north, including investment and development projects.

Eritrea, struggling to make its economy function, has not welcomed the competition, said Nefsanet Asfaw, a member of the Ethiopian Parliament from Tigray. "They think that we shouldn't have factories that they have."

Desalegn agreed, asserting, "The Eritreans say it openly: that each of these industries is like a bomb pointed at them."

Makele, indeed, looks like a boomtown.

Situated in a watered valley surrounded by plateaus and mountain ridges, the city of



An Ethiopian woman cleaning wheat grains yesterday in Adigrat. The grain was salvaged from a plant which was part of a new Ethiopian industrial zone that was bombed earlier this month by Eritrean gun ships.

115,000 people bustles with commerce and enterprise. Its roads are crowded with giant trucks, camel caravans and donkey trains, all carrying goods off to markets in different directions.

Since the end of Ethiopia's 17-year civil war in 1991, a number of government-owned and private factories have opened here, some built by Tigrayans returning from the United States and other places of exile.

They are making leather products, bicycles and truck parts, as well as marble goods. Workers are rebuilding the main highway. There is a new electrical subst-

tion, and half a dozen hotels are operating or under development to cater to European tourists interested in Tigray's early Christian churches and other antiquities.

The soaring spirit is epitomized by a 170-foot monument, topped by a golden globe, constructed on a hill overlooking Makele. It is meant to symbolize Tigray's re-emergence from the bloodshed and suffering of the country's long war.

Officials here think it is no coincidence that the bombed school is near Makele's industrial zone, a mile from where the government is building a modern cement facto-

ry. Similarly, at Adigrat, helicopter gunships fired rockets at a new pharmaceutical plant and set fire to a grain silo storing the province's food surplus.

The cement and pharmaceutical plants were showpieces of Ethiopia's industrialization program. But for Eritrea, these factories pose an economic threat. If Tigray can produce its own cement and medicine, it would no longer need to buy such products from Eritrea.

Nefsanet, the member of Parliament from Tigray, said Eritreans - who were colonized for decades by the Italians - have

always looked down on Tigrayans as their poor country relations.

Although the populations of Eritrea and the province of Tigray are roughly equal, at about 3.5 million each, and they share the same language - Tigrayan - Eritrea has long looked at Tigray mainly as a source for natural resources and cheap labor to build its own industrial base, she asserted, adding, "They boasted that they would be the Israel or the Singapore or the Taiwan of Africa."

But Tigray is not following that script, and the lawmaker noted, "The point is (this relationship) should be a partnership."

At the Makele hospital, where 100 of the 135 wounded are still receiving care, Sagalu Tomsalu, 48, said from his bed that economic jealousy was the only reason he could understand for Eritrea choosing to attack this city, about 100 miles south of the contested frontier.

Like many others here, Sagalu, an executive with a heavy-machinery rental company, was wounded in a second sortie after he rushed to help victims of the initial bombing raid.

"Nobody expected this. I think they were desperate, because all of their economic policies have failed," Sagalu said of the Eritreans. "This is truly an economic conflict."

Eritrean media have offered different explanations, saying the bombings in Makele were retaliation for Ethiopia's bombing of the airport in Asmara, the Eritrean capital, while Adigrat was attacked because the town was being used by the Ethiopian army as a staging and logistics center.

While it is hard to see any logic in this conflict between countries that were close until a short time ago, it is clear that economic factors have contributed to tensions.

Eritreans fought a 30-year guerrilla campaign for independence from Ethiopia. In 1991, when rebels defeated the Soviet-backed dictatorship of Mengistu Haile Mariam, the Eritreans, de facto, achieved their goal, as the regime that then came to power in Ethiopia had backed Eritrean independence.

There were smiles all around when Eritrea's sovereignty became official in 1993.

The two countries' economies were based on the Ethiopian b'm, until last November when Eritrea issued its own currency. That step has caused disruptions in trade, because, to Eritrea's irritation, Ethiopia said that all transactions between the two nations now would have to be settled in hard currency, as with Addis Ababa's other African neighbors.

To some Ethiopians, Eritrea had been living for a long time off their largesse. Before the present conflict, Eritrean businesses profited by importing goods for ultimate sale to Ethiopia's huge market of 60 million people. With its Red Sea ports, Eritrea also made money by exporting to the world the produce from landlocked Ethiopia.

"They don't have coffee, they don't have cattle, they make very minor export items," a Tigrayan businessman in Makele scoffed, discounting Eritrea and its business potential if it does not repair relations with Ethiopia.

LA Times

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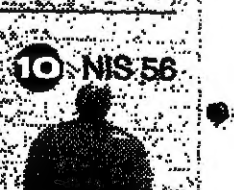
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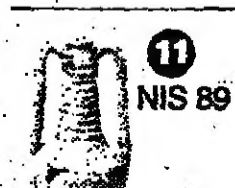
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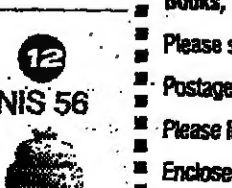
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Japan watchdog starts work amid reform pressure

By EDWINA GIBBS

TOKYO (Reuters) — Japan's new financial watchdog agency began work yesterday, as markets waited impatiently for word from the world's second-largest economy on new steps to reform its still fragile banking system.

The Financial Supervisory Agency (FSA), born out of a series of scandals that enveloped the powerful Ministry of Finance (MOF), takes over responsibility for supervision and inspection of financial institutions.

It starts operations two days after senior finance officials from Group of Seven and Asian countries met in Tokyo and urged Japan to take concrete action on its banking sector and boost its economy to avoid pushing the Asian region into a fresh crisis.

The FSA's commissioner, Masaharu Hino, told an inaugural news conference he would undertake "tough and transparent" supervision of the nation's troubled financial sector on the basis of clear and fair rules — and not the murky discretionary system that the MOF is accused of having used.

Hino, until yesterday a senior regional public prosecutor, said that in his job so far he has never been able to use the ordinances and informal notices that have characterized MOF's administration.

"My only weapon has been the law," he said.

But in addition to strict supervision, experts are worried that the agency does not have the nec-

essary resources or expertise. "Merely transferring the supervision from MOF to the new FSA does not solve the basic issue of a lack of personnel, material and resources to do the job properly,"

said Brian Waterhouse, a financial analyst at HSBC Securities. The agency has some 400 staff, 150 of whom are financial inspectors.

However, since nearly all the

personnel were formerly employed by the Finance Ministry, questions have been raised as to how independent it will be of the powerful ministry. Hino said he would "honestly

accept" criticism that his agency, with a staff of about 400, has been called weak in comparison with the US bank regulatory system. He vowed to try to strengthen

the organization but said details would have to come later. Japanese policy makers began discussions this week aimed at resolving banks' bad loans problems once and for all, and a

senior politician from the ruling Liberal Democratic Party said yesterday that a party blueprint of key measures should be out by July 8.

Hino said he was undecided about whether the agency would, as several newspapers reported yesterday, launch simultaneous inspections of the nation's top 19 banks, in order to get a grip on the extent and nature of their bad loan problems.

The agency opened its doors as sources at the Long-Term Credit Bank of Japan said it was in search of a possible merger. Rumors — denied by the bank — have swirled that LTCB is in financial difficulties and faces a credit crunch.

Hino said that LTCB was "operating normally" yesterday.

"I have not heard any reports of turmoil at its branches or that it is experiencing any delays in responding to customers," he said, adding that he had received no report from the Bank of Japan of liquidity problems at LTCB.

LTCB, whose share price fell below the critical 100 yen line on Friday and by its daily limit of 50 yen to a record low of 62 yen yesterday, said over the weekend it was in search of a possible merger candidate.

But the bank has repeatedly denied rumors that it is in financial difficulties and faces a credit crunch.

Citing such rumors swirling around Japanese banks, Hino said: "We will fully protect not only depositors, but also debentures and interbank transactions."

Bank clean-up to be painful, costly

TOKYO (Reuters) — Japan, after eight years of denial and dithering, may finally be serious about cleaning up the bad loans festering in its banking system, but curing the sector's ills will be a lengthy, costly, and painful process.

"Whatever they decide, it will take several years to sort out. It's not a quick fix or a magic bullet," said Brian Waterhouse, financial analyst at HSBC Securities.

"They've got to get out there and spend money and make painful decisions, and they may lose institutions and people will be out of jobs."

Policy makers do seem to be speeding up efforts to outline a scheme that would encourage banks to write off bad loans, while ensuring the process does not trigger a flood of bankruptcies by companies left in the lurch for funds when their lenders disappear.

"It does seem to me that things are in train faster than what was the case just a week ago," one foreign financial expert said.

The change of heart — whether apparent or real — should not be surprising given the intense global pressure on the Japanese to take policy action and help keep the entire Asian region from slipping over a precipice into a fresh round of crisis.

Yesterday, two days after a gathering of Group of Seven and Asian finance officials turned up the heat on Tokyo, ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) secretary-general Koichi Kato said the party planned to decide by July 8 key details of a blueprint to solve the banking woes.

That would be before a key election for parliament's Upper House on July 12, and in line with a three-week deadline set by US Deputy Treasury Secretary Lawrence Summers last week for Japan to come up with policy steps before the impact of last week's surprise US-Japan yen-boosting intervention faded.

Many have feared the campaign would delay vital policy decisions. "The election is a focal point," the financial expert said.

"An early decision would show a willingness to take risks and would probably be a sign of the relative weight of political and economic imperatives."

A key element of the plan is expected to be a so-called "bridge bank" to provide loans to sound borrowers if their banks fail or otherwise disappear through mergers or takeovers.

"The government is putting the building blocks in place to formalize a

response mechanism when banks fail or if the government wants to merge banks," said James Florillo, financial analyst at ING Barings.

"If they adopt the measures they are talking about... it's heading in the right direction, and that's a significant difference."

Adding to the urgency, the Long-Term Credit Bank of Japan (LTCB)

said on Saturday it is considering a merger as one way out of its financial troubles, but analysts said the "bridge bank" scheme is essential if such a merger is to take place.

The bank's share price plunged nearly 45 percent yesterday.

"If" still seems, however, to be the operative word.

Masaharu Hino, head of a new Financial Supervisory Agency which was launched yesterday and is expected to play a key role in any banking clean-up, told reporters it is too early to tell if a "bridge bank" is needed or what form it will take.

Putting a plan down on paper and enacting laws to implement in an extra session of parliament from late July, meanwhile, would merely be the start of a process which analysts see taking two

ANALYSIS

By LINDA SIEGEL

Khatami unfazed despite interior minister's ouster

By JONATHAN LYONS

TEHRAN (Reuters) — Iranian President Mohammad Khatami shows no sign of slowing his drive for greater political and social openness despite conservatives' success in forcing the resignation of his reformist interior minister.

Iranian analysts said yesterday that Khatami's swift move to replace the minister, Abdollah Nouri, to his cabinet in another post shows his determination to carry on with the reforms he promised ahead of his surprise landslide election victory a year ago.

The daily *Jomhuri Eslami*, the voice of Khatami's traditionalist critics, acknowledged that the president's overwhelming mandate — 75 percent of voters backed him in May 1997 — could not be ignored, even after the no-confidence vote against Nouri on Sunday.

"The group that won the impeachment should not get proud of itself and must pay attention that

the interests of the nation and the revolution take precedence over those of any faction," the newspaper said in a commentary.

Deputies in the parliament, or Majlis, voted to force Nouri's resignation on charges of undermining social and political stability in the Islamic republic.

Khatami struck back almost at once, naming the man he last week called a "blessing" to the new post of vice-president for development and social affairs. Nouri's job carries a guaranteed seat in the cabinet and ensures his influence will remain largely undiluted.

Perhaps equally galling to the conservatives, Khatami named Nouri's chief aide Mostafa Tajzadeh as acting interior minister — a move to ensure continuity in such sensitive matters as authorizing public protests, conducting elections, and appointing provincial governors.

"Evidently [Khatami] has decided to carry on with his plans, hence

his early reaction to the no-confidence vote in appointing Nouri as vice-president and Tajzadeh as acting minister," Karim Arghandehpour, an editor at the pro-reform *Salam* daily, told Reuters.

Private economist Fariborz Raisdana said the outrage within the Majlis at Nouri's modest reforms reflects deep unease among the conservatives at what Khatami has termed "political development" — a still undefined loosening of constraints within the existing Islamic system.

"The extent of the liberties gained during Nouri's tenure was not considerable, but showed the serious vulnerability of the right-wing faction to freedom and people's participation, as well as new trends in the economy," he said.

Raisdana said Khatami is prepared to wait out the current Majlis in the hope of unseating his critics in parliamentary polls set for March 2000.



Bosnia issues currency

A bank worker counts a new Bosnian currency, called Convertible Mark, in Sarajevo yesterday. Company bookkeepers in Muslim-dominated areas of Bosnia-Herzegovina were the first to line up for the new currency, whose exchange rate is equal to one deutschemark. (AP)

Diplomatic exodus from Belarus gathers pace

By LARISA SAYENKO

MINSK (Reuters) — The US and Japan yesterday joined European Union countries in recalling their ambassadors from Belarus in protest after the envoys were driven from their homes by President Alexander Lukashenko.

The British, French, German, Greek, and Italian ambassadors drank a champagne toast outside the British embassy before heading for the airport to leave the ex-Soviet republic.

"To an early return," they said in unison.

Lukashenko, who also lives in the woodland Drozdki complex outside Minsk, says the buildings need repairing. The envoys suspect there are other reasons, and suspect he may want the place for himself and

his entourage. A US embassy official said Ambassador Daniel Speckhard, his wife and three children were also leaving.

The five EU ambassadors told Belarus on Saturday they would leave yesterday after it shut off water and gas from their compound and denied access. Turkey's ambassador left on Friday.

"I hope we will not be going for long, but everything that has happened is incomprehensible and sad," German Ambassador Horst Winkelmann told Reuters at the airport.

Japan's ambassador, Shigao Natsui, said Tokyo was following their lead.

"I'm leaving Minsk tomorrow," he said. "We cannot accept such one-sided and sharp measures from

Belarus. On a human level, I find this very hurtful."

Lukashenko gave the ambassadors notice last month. Last week, the two sides struck a deal allowing the ambassadors to remain there during the repair work, but they were then told that from yesterday they would be denied access and the complex was duly closed off, although Lukashenko stayed on.

British Ambassador Jessica Pearce, whose country holds the rotating EU presidency, said the exodus is meant as a signal to Lukashenko, who brooks little opposition.

"The point of us leaving is to show him that he cannot treat us in the way that he expects to be able to treat anyone in his country," she told BBC radio.

"Ambassadors are expected to be treated with a certain status, a certain respect, and a certain common courtesy," she said. "If there is a technical problem, then tell us straight."

Russia, which has close ties to Belarus and, unlike the other countries, owns its residence, said its ambassador had also been barred.

"All the limits have been applied to the Russian ambassador as well. In his residence in Drozdki, there is also no light, water, and as of today access to the territory of the residence is forbidden," an embassy official said. "He doesn't know where he will spend the night."

"We will discuss this with the Belarusian ambassador [to Moscow] in the near future," Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman Valery Nesterushkin said. "In

this situation these technical questions have a political slant."

Russian Foreign Minister Yevgeny Primakov took a similar line in an interview on Sunday and added that Moscow would not withdraw its ambassador.

Bulgarian Ambassador Marko Ganchev said he would be leaving in the next few days and that he thought others would leave too.

Only five of the 15 EU member states have ambassadors in Minsk, but all 15 plan to ask Belarusian ambassadors in their capitals to leave in a tit-for-tat measure. Washington is taking the same line.

Pearce said the recall was a "cooling off period" rather than break in ties. "We hope this is not going to affect relations further," she said. "However this is a risk we are taking."

N. Korean sub caught in S. Korean fishing nets

SEOUL (Reuters) — A North Korean espionage submarine was spotted off the eastern coast of South Korea yesterday after it became tangled in fishing nets, television reports from Seoul said.

A Defense Ministry spokesman said helicopters and warships had been ordered to the area to confirm the identity of the vessel.

YTN television news said the sub was spotted 18.5 km. off the northeastern town of Seokcho.

State-run Korea Broadcasting

System (KBS) said it was a small espionage submarine capable of carrying five to six people. It said the submarine had become entangled in fishing nets and North Korean soldiers were seen trying to remove them.

KBS said the Defense Ministry had sent four warships and a helicopter to search the area.

The two Koreas are technically still at war because the 1950-53 Korean War ended in a truce, rather than a peace agreement.



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Angola's victims of peace

By DEAN E. MURPHY

LUANDA, Angola — Her sobs rang out in the crowded street like a heartbreak lullaby to her dead baby. But except for friends cushioning her head against the pavement, the collapsed woman went mostly unnoticed.

The spectacle of a grieving mother outside the pediatric hospital here is as familiar to Angolans as the ubiquitous stench of death inside. Every day, an average of 16 children lose their lives to meningitis, malaria, diarrhea and malnutrition in sweltering, fly-infested wards. About one in every three patients admitted to the hillside hospital dies — usually within a few hours.

"The hospital has such a bad reputation that people avoid coming," said Dr. Luis Bernardino, who runs the 250-bed facility. "The government gave us a budget of \$1.6 million last year, but we received only half that. We often don't have enough money to buy drugs."

Down the shady road toward the center of town, Mario Silva is facing a severe shortage as well. The smartly dressed commercial director of the capital's new Mitsubishi car dealership has imported two

sports cars from Japan. With a sticker price of about \$100,000 each, the pair has 15 would-be buyers. Silva has decided to sell the flashy red vehicles to whoever shows up first with the cash.

"To say the economy is in the hands of the people is not true," said Silva, whose thriving business has been built on sales to government officials and foreign businesses. "The situation with luxury cars isn't necessarily right in relation to the misery you see in this country. At the same time, it shows the world that something isn't right here."

Something hasn't been right in this southern African country for a long time, but with three decades of colonial rebellion and US-backed civil war giving way to an uneasy truce, people here are beginning to ask questions that not long ago would have been considered unpatriotic.

Topping the list: Where has all the money gone? At issue are billions of dollars in government spending that receives scant public accounting, a decade of massive foreign aid that has made Angola one of the world's biggest charity cases, and the country's enormous oil wealth that keeps homes heated in New York and Chicago but,

according to popular perception, enriches so few here.

"As I see it, just 2 percent of the people in Luanda are getting the benefits of the system," Bernardino said.

Alzira Gomez, 34, who runs a small food store across town from the hospital, agreed: "The highest echelon of the government is benefiting from this peace, not us. Not the people."

That's not the whole story, according to Finance Minister Mario de Alcántara Monteiro.

"It is necessary to note that governing in the conditions that Angolans have lived in the last years — facing invasions, blockades (and great destruction) — doesn't allow for normal government," Monteiro said. "We are aware of the shortcomings in our past economic performance. The reason for the shortcomings, particularly the war, are now behind us."

But off-repeated explanations that the costly demands of war are to blame for the country's intractable economic and social ills are no longer accepted as plain truth on the street or in the offices of international humanitarian organizations.

Despite violent clashes in rural areas and increasingly frantic

reports of an unraveling peace process, now in its final stage, there has been no major fighting between the government and the erstwhile US-backed rebel forces for four years, and the fleet of Mercedes, BMWs and other expensive cars navigating the city's potholes is an in-your-face reminder that not everyone in Angola is suffering.

When provincial leaders fly to Luanda, they typically load their aircraft with fancy vehicles to cruise the capital in style and comfort.

"I see the beautiful cars," said Xavier Alfredo, 22, who peddles household furnishings on a dusty median strip clouded in exhaust fumes. "I don't know where the money comes from, but they stop and buy things."

Beyond the tinted windows and leather upholstery, unemployment hovers around 45 percent, destitute children beg and steal to survive, infant mortality remains among the world's highest, and most of Angola's 12 million people will not live past their 47th birthday.

In 1996, the country's gross national product per capita — an international measure of economic activity — was estimated at \$320, compared with an average of \$490 in sub-Saharan Africa.

The United Nations, which is scheduled to end its peacekeeping mission here this summer, has spent more than \$1 billion trying to set things straight in Angola. Scores of private organizations have spent millions more. Relief workers say "donor fatigue" is taking hold as unsafe conditions make many operations too hazardous to continue and major funding sources — from the European Union to the US government — question the value of their contributions.

"Our biggest problem right now is donor reluctance," said Sandra Laumark, director of CARE International Angola, which distributes food and other relief in several provinces.

At the core of the discontent is the growing perception that the Angolan government isn't doing enough to help its people. The International Monetary Fund estimates that in 1996 less than 9 cents of each \$1 spent by authorities here went to social programs. UN officials say there is a deep resentment that the government is shirking its own rebuilding responsibilities.

Philip Owusu, head of the World Bank office in Luanda, says about half of the government's \$3.5 billion budget is spent on items not

included in the public budget; a recent IMF report says that more than two-thirds of total government spending occurs without adequate accounting records or budgetary review.

The IMF suspended its economic assistance program in 1995, in large part because of what economists euphemistically refer to as a "lack of transparency" in the government's bookkeeping — code for corruption and under-the-table dealing in everything from armaments to electronics to foreign currency.

Gomez, the grocery shopkeeper, says life in Luanda has gotten more difficult since the 1994 peace agreement. The mother of two struggles to keep shelves stocked amid constant shortages and crumbling city services. As she spoke outside her ground-floor shop, sewage from the apartment building above gurgled into the street.

Prices in Luanda are a case in point. At official exchange rates, a single egg costs 40 cents, an apple about \$1 and a tube of toothpaste \$4. Even on the black market, where prices are halved, most goods are beyond the reach of ordinary Angolans. A recent World Bank survey ranked Luanda as one of the world's most expensive

cities for the bank's employees, second only to Geneva. Yet the city's posh restaurants and nightclubs never lack for clientele.

Angolan officials in Luanda did not respond to requests for an interview. Questioned by a reporter during an economic conference in neighboring Namibia, finance officials dismissed questions about "lack of transparency" as journalistic invention.

"I would like to assure you that we already have enough transparency — probably not total, but better than in some other countries," said Monteiro, the finance minister.

Critics acknowledge that some financial turmoil is to be expected in a developing nation emerging from Africa's longest civil war, which was perpetuated for many years by the US-Soviet rivalry.

The government and the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola — the former rebel movement known by its Portuguese acronym, UNITA — remain distrustful of each other and are jockeying for advantage should the country slip back into fighting.

No one is quite certain if the peace process has created peace or a momentary absence of war.

LA Times

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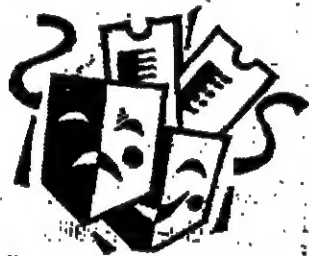
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Meirav Gruber (left) steals the show with an electrifying performance as Alma, while Linor Goldstein is sexy and sultry as a pistol-toting mom.

Nitzan's multimedia mosaic

Theater Review



By Naomi Doudai

One of the most innovative and daring directors, Omri Nitzan, gives Edna Mazya's

drama on the political identity of three generations of a contemporary Israeli family the kind of off-beat treatment it probably deserves.

THE REBELS

By Edna Mazya

The Cameri, Tel Aviv

A playwright with an unabashedly cinematic approach to theater, her fragmentary, forward and backward flashes of the past and present lives of her figures amount to a total disorientation of conventional stage time and theater parameters.

A scrambled mosaic of still living memories staged with a plethora of multimedia devices, this screen scenario dissolves into an almost dream-like, double dimension that defies the customary limits of theatrical illusion. In as much as the theme is currently popular and the approach visually striking, the show is novel and gripping.

For all the sophisticated direction, the dialogue, the song and dance routines and powerful relevance, however, the show's realization of the main theme is far from riveting, to say the least. Even if the merging of screen and stage media had been as

successful artistically as it is technically, the maudlin reduction of Hagana, Lehi, and Mazon heroics to the level of the silliest in Soap Opera romance must appall all those who still live to remember those days.

This is only one of many distortions of recent history in this script. It must also be pointed out that few, if any, of us who played parallel parts in the underground drama of those days ever thought of ourselves as "rebels."

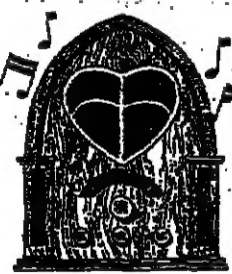
Nonetheless, even if a highly pretentious production, *The Rebels* does have its highlights. For Anglos these are not, as might be

expected, the role of the loquacious English-speaking officer (Alon Ofri), or the historic perspective in which the role of the British is cast here.

Much more impressive is the performance of four women leads, Leora Rivlin - wickedly witty as the adult Michaela, Shai Golan - pendant as her adolescent surrogate, and Linor Goldstein - sexy and sultry as her pistol-toting mother, are topped by Meirav Gruber as Alma - the irresponsible, jealous twin. Hers is a virtuoso presentation generating a range of electrifying emotion with which, ultimately, she steals the show.

Jeff Buckley's legacy lives on

In Tune



By David Brinn

It's been four years since Jeff Buckley burst on the music scene with his stunning debut,

SKETCHES FOR MY SWEETHEART THE DRUNK

Jeff Buckley (NMC)

GROWING PAINS

Billie Meyers (Red Aris)

CRAZY ON THE WEEKEND

Sunhouse (NMC)

Grace, an expansive, bold fusion of Nineties rock, folk and jazz. Nearing the completion last year



Buckley: A bittersweet glimpse

of the follow-up, Buckley drowned in Memphis, Tennessee (at the same tender age of 31 that his father, Sixties folkster Tim Buckley, overdosed).

The unfinished studio tracks Buckley recorded with his band, along with even rarer four-track solo demos that hadn't reached the studio stage, make up the double disc *Sketches for my Sweetheart the Drunk*.

Like other gifted contemporary musicians (Lenny Kravitz comes to mind), Buckley sets his sights wide, but lacks the discipline to hone in on the best way to express himself. *Sketches*, like *Grace*, is all over the musical map. The first disc is the more conventional band disc which most likely would have evolved into his next album. Some of the tracks immediately stand up to *Grace*'s taste test, like the moody Robert Plant imagery of "The Sky is a Landfill" and the radio-friendly hard rock of "Year of Blonde Girls." But overall the disc feels like a work in action and not a finished product.

The second disc is even "sketchier," more difficult and experimental. The string of four-track demos includes some surprises, like an ambitious cover of Genesis's "Back in NYC" and one of his most direct, thus effective, ballads "Jewel Box."

Sketches is not easy to digest over a handful of listens, but is worth the effort. It proves that *Grace* was not a fluke, and offers a bittersweet glimpse at what might have been.

BILLIE MEYERS is the "in" singer of the moment, replacing Natalie Imbruglia as the hottest female debut of the year. If you haven't heard "Kiss the Rain" then you

must listen to only the classical stations.

The song, and most of the others on *Growing Pains*, is chock full of memorable hooks, chiming guitars and shimmering pop craft courtesy of hit maker Desmond Child, who has revived careers ranging from Aerosmith to Cher to Bon Jovi.

If you add Meyers's Chrissie Hynde-but-swagger-meets-Tracy-Chapman-husky-sincerity vocal qualities, and the guitar and songwriting talents of Eric Bazilian (founder of The Hooters, and composer of the massive Joan Osborne hit "One of Us") to the ingredients, you've got a winning recipe.

What's lacking, however, is any sense of risk and adventure. Like he did with the aforementioned artists, Child takes Meyers, a 27-year old British expatriate who had to go to the US to get signed, and builds calculated hit-making machinery around her. There's no room for error, and therefore, no tension to the music.

They're so sure they have a hit on their hands that on the beginning of the Stones-y rocker "Having Trouble with the Language," someone tunes a radio into different foreign language stations, eventually landing on a music station which is playing none other than "Kiss the Rain." They knew it was going to be a

hit, because they knew what the radio programmers want to hear, because they think they know what we want to hear. They may be right, but it would be nice for us to make up our own minds instead of having them made up for us. That makes it all the more difficult to grudgingly admit that "Kiss the Rain" deserves all the success it's getting.

ANOTHER debut, this by a British trio called Sunhouse, is a small, unassuming gem. Adopted by Sinead O'Connor's husband John Reynolds, who provides production and drumming, the band plays thoughtful, acoustic-based rock boosted by an occasional bass-drum punch in the gut. Sonically likened to those early 1970s classic albums by the likes of Van Morrison and Traffic, which had a feathery, flowing quality, *Crazy on the Weekend* is bluesy, earthy and free of gimmicks.

Singer Gavin Clarke resembles a young Peter Dinklage and provides the perfect emotive qualities to accompany the melodic vignettes that his band mates conjure up. Bassist Robert Brooks in particular provides one of the most tuneful basses in recent memory. This is one of those discs that is just dying to be played on a turntable, with scratches and crackles.

Karmon behind times

DANCE REVIEW

By ORA BRAFMAN

Thousands of devotees of the so-called 'Israeli folk dance' and nostalgic followers of Yonatan Karmon and his famous

KARMON COMPANY

TAPAC

June 20

dance company of the 60's and 70's came to watch the resurrection of his troupe, which closed down in 1984.

Karmon had founded a new groove of dance entertainment that sold an energetic and vigorous image of the "new Israeli," a true Zionist, who toils the land, fights

for his life and still has time for loving dancing till dawn.

This image sold well here and more so abroad, and Karmon was crowned prince of the Israeli folk dance for stage, his creations living harmoniously with what was politically correct at the time.

Well, times have changed, the harmony faded away, and one can only find the resurrections of Phoenix in legends. Karmon tries again to present dances that depict all sectors of our society, from Hassidic and Yemenite culture to belly dancing, to dancing cotton pickers. This "Israeli" collective image doesn't work any more.

Recreational folk dancers, tourists and people abroad will "buy" it more easily, but Karmon yearns for the more sophisticated local audiences, who will recognize and legitimate his work via artistic criteria. I think he missed the boat.

Say it ain't so, Jay Leno

By ELANA CHIPMAN

As of midnight Tuesday/Wednesday next week, English-speaking viewers have one less channel to tune into. NBC Europe has ceased broadcasts in its present format and at this point ICP, the company bringing in satellite channels, has not concluded negotiations over an alternative channel.

NBC Europe, which broadcast *The Tonight Show with Jay Leno*, among other programs, failed to make it financially in Europe. The station will be going into partnership with National Geographic Television and will broadcast in Europe under a new logo, with an emphasis on National Geographic material. ICP has promised that a deal will be struck soon with either the new NBC-National Geographic channel or the Discovery Channel.

As a small compensation for the loss of NBC Europe, Israel will be receiving Star World instead of Star Plus from midnight Tuesday/Wednesday next

week. Star World is another channel broadcast out of Hong Kong, similar in content to Star Plus in its earlier stages, before it began broadcasting a high percentage of Hindi programs.

Star World is a 24-hour, exclusively English language channel, with programming from Britain, the USA and Canada.

Program schedules includes American soaps, popular drama series such as *The X-Files*, *Chicago Hope*, *LA Law* and *NYPD* and comedies like *The Simpsons* and *Third Rock from the Sun*.

British drama aficionados will also be happy to know that popular dramas such as *Cadfael*, *Dangerfield*, *Ruth Rendell* and *Hearbeat* will carry on, together with classic comedies such as *Porridge*, *Are You Being Served?* and *Yes Minister*.

There will also be children's programs, cooking programs, aerobics, and specials from various entertainment events. Let's hope this channel has more staying power than some of its predecessors.

Jerusalem Camerata: Worshipping God

By Ury Eppstein



With joy, in the Israel Camerata's Subscription Concert No. 6, conducted by Avner Biran.

The concert's main star was the

THE ISRAEL CAMERATA & THE RHEINISCHE KANTOREI CHOIR
Works by Vivaldi and Handel
Jerusalem Theater
June 15

Rheinische Kantorei Choir. Its glorious sopranos and basses, blending in smoothly and in perfect balance with the middle voices, were the chief protagonists of joy. This became evident particularly in Handel's *Nisi Dominus* and Vivaldi's *Dixit Dominus*, after some lack of stamina in Handel's opening "My song shall be always."

The soloists' voices - soprano Linda Perillo, tenor Joseph Cornwell and bass Rudolf Piernay - sounded musical and cultivated, but rather too weak for the Henry Crown Hall, or perhaps for the orchestra's inconsiderate volume. Soprano Tamuz Shiran's role was deplorably too small to be enjoyed

properly. Stephan Wallace sounded more heavyweight than one commonly experiences in counter-tenors.

The Water Music flowed rather thickly, lacking the lifting characteristic of a suite.

THIS was a rather standard program, lacking in focus, presented by the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra in its Subscription Concert No. 8. This was due, no doubt, to the force majeure resulting from the last-minute changes caused by the scheduled soloist's indisposition.

Soloist Pamela Frank, in Dvorak's Violin Romance Op. 11 and Bruch's Violin Concerto No. 1, mercifully refrained from

JERUSALEM SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
Pamela Frank - violin
Works by Beethoven, Bruch and Dvorak
Jerusalem Theater
June 17

exhausting the works' potential of sentimentality. Her rendition's lively flow, forward-driving energies, romantic exuberance, and her warm singing tone testified to her good musical taste and technical command.

In Beethoven's Symphony No. 2, the orchestra, conducted by David Shalton, sounded as if it had partially recovered from its South American tour's time lag. The swallowed notes might have been sufficient for writing another symphony.

Rap lacks staying power

By ROGER GATLIN

Pop quiz: Who are Fiend, Big Punisher, DMX, C-Murder, Sikk the Shocker, Eighthball, Mystikal, the Lox, Cappadonna, Master P and Daz Dillinger? These rap acts each had an album debut in the Billboard Top 10 this year - with DMX and Master P bowing at No. 1 this month.

Like 1980s metal acts before them, rappers have their greatest sales power their first week out with a new album, outselling behemoths like Garth Brooks and the Titanic soundtrack, only to drop like rocks in the subsequent weeks.

Rap albums may sell big at first because of heavy street promotion of release dates and because fans can't hear most hard-core rap on the radio. Lack of radio play also may be a factor in the drop-off in

sales; another could be that rap artists rarely go on tour.

To be sure, a few rappers hang around to rack up sales in the gold (\$500,000) or even platinum (one million) categories. But not since the shooting deaths of Tupac Shakur in 1996 and the Notorious B.I.G. last year has rap seen the rise of a singular new hip-hop hero with staying power.

Puff Daddy may seem the obvious exception, but he claims to be more an entertainer than a rapper, a producer who pulls familiar tracks from the past to cobble together new pop hits. Even so, such a high profile seems to have cost him street credibility among hip-hop fans (and his 4 million-selling *No Way Out* has fallen to No. 47).

Even lower is the album by his protégé Mase, whose 2 million-selling debut *Harlem World* is down to

No. 63. A more obvious exception would be Master P, the successful New Orleans mogul of No Limit Records, whose *MP Da Last Don* soared to No. 1 with one of the biggest one-week sales of the year, at 495,406 copies - nearly three times as many as the next charting debut, *Smashing Pumpkins* anticipated *Adore* at No. 2.

Such a rush of success would seem to cement Master P's popularity. But like another promising rapper, Jay-Z, Master P pledges that the current album will be his last. It's a better way to go out than through violence, to be sure. And Master P's touch will abound for a while, as he'll continue running a record label, producing movies (*I Got the Hook-Up!* was his) and turning out an astounding number of new artists.

(The Hartford Courant)

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Radio channels for all

There are basically two ways to fight pirates: One is to wage a strong-armed struggle, tracking them down, arresting them, and shutting down their operations, both on land and on the high seas. The other is simply to deny them the status of pirates, by declaring their actions legal.

The government of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has decided to take the latter route with regard to the pirate radio broadcasts of Arutz 7. Consequently, it is feverishly studying options which would enable the NRP-associated station to broadcast without violating the law.

Since the state's inception, there has been a sharp distinction between free speech privileges enjoyed by the print and broadcast media. The print media's freedoms have been nurtured since well before 1948. Apart from some largely self-imposed military censorship, there has never been any serious government inspired meddling in the content of journals and newspapers, whether intended for the transmission of news, opinion, or entertainment. Similarly, anyone wishing to establish a newspaper did so without needing to seek a license before, or meeting a regulator after, launching such a product.

The situation was, and remains, markedly different with regards to the air waves, which the state insisted on clutching to its bosom, albeit while allowing a handful of state-owned channels to compete among themselves.

In recent years much of this has begun to change, with the introduction of regional radio stations, tendered out roughly at the same time that the local television market was revolutionized with the advent of Channel 2's commercials and the marketing of a host of cable channels.

Monopolistic control, however, is still maintained in at least two senses: Broadcasting, in each region is limited solely to one licensed operator, and national broadcasts remain the exclusive prerogative of Israel Radio and Army Radio.

Meanwhile, some 70 odd illicit radio stations have mushroomed across the country, mostly ignored by the police. Arutz 7, which is the most famous and controversial of them, has now been made the focus of a police probe, apparently in response to a petition accusing the government of violating the law. With the government's

hand forced, the police raided Arutz 7's land-based studios, confiscating equipment and summoning station managers for questioning.

Politically, this government—which includes the NRP—cannot place itself in the position of shutting down the station. A special committee was therefore formed to study ways of legalizing Arutz 7, with the likeliest option at this point declaring it to be the regional broadcaster in Judea and Samaria.

However, if it wants to do more than offer a remedy to a momentary dilemma and tackle the broader issue, the government would do well to seize the opportunity and dismantle the radio broadcasting cartel. It's time the freedom of speech traditionally applied to the print media was offered to existing and prospective radio broadcasters as well.

The mechanism for doing so is well established in a number of countries. Frequencies can be licensed to private concerns who would run radio stations on a commercial basis, subject perhaps to an equivalent of America's Federal Communications Commission. Those who manage to attract a large enough listener audience to survive economically would be filling a public need, and, while at it, increase economic activity.

With the opportunity open to them to broadcast legally, many of the currently illegal haredi and Arab stations would likely opt to be licensed, thus enabling a rational distribution of frequencies and permitting the police to focus their energies on preventing crimes which truly endanger the public.

While there might be some technical and legal hurdles in the way, those should be easy to overcome. The spectrum of frequencies available can be significantly expanded by moving toward digital radio broadcasts. It is true that the holders of regional licenses might object that they paid their fees on the understanding that they will have monopoly rights; but those readers were time-limited.

A bill legalizing Arutz 7 can and should contain a clause opening up the airwaves to competition as soon as former obligations to the regional stations terminate. The era of patronizing governments deciding what cultural content is best for the public is over. It is time to let the people "vote with their ears" and choose for themselves what radio fare they want to listen to.



Arafat's legal fraud

EVELYN GORDON

According to press reports, two issues are still preventing a US-Israel agreement on a second redeployment from Judea and Samaria. One is a fairly new dispute: Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's insistence that the third redeployment also be settled now. The other, however, is as old as the Oslo process: the amendment of the PLO Covenant.

This is the first promise Yasser Arafat made to Yitzhak Rabin when the Oslo Accords were signed in 1993. Now, five years and several Israeli pullbacks later, Netanyahu is insisting that it finally be fulfilled before he transfers yet more land to the Palestinians.

President Bill Clinton has conceded the justice of this demand in principle. All that is separating the two is a seemingly trivial detail: Netanyahu wants the Palestinian National Council to ratify a letter from Arafat listing the articles to be canceled. Clinton says it is enough for the 18-member PLO executive committee to do so.

Is it worth risking a confrontation with the US over such a small issue? The answer is, unequivocally, yes because this is far from a trivial matter. First, the covenant is hardly an insignificant document. The founding charter of the PLO, its importance to many Palestinians is similar to that of Israel's Declaration of Independence or the US Constitution.

Yet 26 of its 33 articles call for Israel's destruction or advocate violence against Israel. It is no accident that its amendment was the first demand Rabin made of Arafat during the Oslo talks. If the Palestinians were not even willing to eliminate such statements from their covenant, how could their claims of peaceful intentions be taken seriously?

This being the case, the issue is too important for Israel to accept a fraud. And Clinton's proposal is

exactly that: a legal fraud of the highest order.

The covenant itself stipulates that it can only be amended by a two-thirds vote of the approximately 600-member PNC. Therefore, under the Palestinian's own legal framework, the PLO executive has no more power to amend sections of the covenant than the Clinton or Netanyahu cabinets have to annul laws passed by their respective legislatures.

What makes Clinton's absurd proposition tenable in diplomatic circles is the fiction that the PNC already amended the covenant, in April 1996. Arafat's letter merely details which articles were affected by this resolution. Why should the PNC have to ratify a decision it has already made?

The problem with this argument is that the decision has not already been made. The PNC resolution of April 24, 1996 states merely that the PNC decides to change those clauses which contradict the exchange of letters between the PLO and the government of Israel from the 9th and 10th of September, 1993, and empowers the legal committee to re-draft the charter and present it for approval.

BUT which clauses were amended? Following the vote, some PNC members said four articles had been changed; some said seven; some said 10; some said 33; and some said none.

On January 22, 1998, Faisal Hamdi Hussein, head of the PNC's legal committee, said no changes had yet been made and from a legal perspective this is the only accurate assessment.

What the PNC did in 1996 is standard legislative procedure: It decided on a change in principle, and empowered a committee to work out the details. But until the committee returns with a concrete

proposal, and the PNC approves it, this statement of intent has as much legal force as any other bill sent to committee: none at all.

Despite this, Arafat sent a letter to Clinton in January 1998 claiming that 12 articles had been canceled and another 16 changed—in an unspecified manner. This is what Clinton wants the PLO executive to ratify.

Unfortunately, the executive committee's ratification of Arafat's letter would have the same legal force as a US cabinet ratification of a Clinton letter saying the Bill of Rights had been canceled again, none at all.

The only Palestinian body which can amend the covenant is the still the PNC. To assert otherwise is to express contempt for the workings of Palestinian democracy—something which both the US and Israel claim to want to encourage—and to foster the entrenchment of Arafat's dictatorship.

Yet Israel's vital interest goes beyond the question of Palestinian democracy, because burying things in committee is the oldest tactic known for avoiding changes one does not really want to make.

The legal committee might reasonably have spent a few months wrangling over details, but it has already been over, two years, and as far as anyone knows, it has not even started work yet.

Normative negligence

MARLENE E. POST

The headlines of the last few days are harrowing: The only child of a middle-aged couple died after falling out of her classroom window during recess. The roof of a school gym under construction collapsed on a group of youngsters playing basketball, killing two.

It is every parent's nightmare: that fateful instant when forces beyond our control converge to destroy that which is most precious to us and change our lives forever. We are helpless, we are furious. We want to know who was responsible for the negligence. We want them brought to justice.

The latest spectacular tragedies outraged the whole nation, as did previous incidents such as the Arad Festival stampede and the Maccabiah bridge disaster.

But unnatural deaths and injuries happen to children in and out of their homes throughout this country every day. Just look at the shocking death rate from traffic accidents.

As a society, Israelis have come to accept these accidents with a shrug. As a culture, they do not believe in preventing them. As a nation, Israel maintains the highest level of vigilance for "security." But "safety," which can be in our control, is left to fate.

The concept of "security" as a justifiably high national priority applies exclusively to threats from without—from enemies of the nation. Immense resources are devoted to averting the dangers of war and terrorism, and there is hardly a voice in Israel that would argue against this.

But how do individuals and institutions deal with everyday safety precautions?

Unfortunately, when it comes to foreseeing dangers and taking action to prevent them, there is a widespread attitude of indifference.

Worse, the prevailing macho culture maintains that the strong don't worry; people who do, are mocked.

EXAMPLES of normative negligence abound. How else do you explain unrestrained children bouncing up and down in cars, their

Macho culture maintains that the strong don't worry; people who do are mocked

faces pressed up against the rear window—despite the well-known casualty rate, despite laws requiring restraining devices and seat-belts?

How else do you explain group after group of hikers getting stranded in the desert, despite off-repeated rules of conduct that should keep them on the main trail with adequate supplies of water? Does it really come as such a shock, then, when somebody pays the ultimate price?

We at Hadassah believe attitudes towards safety have to be changed at all levels. From the legislation of new safety laws at the Knesset to the instructions parents give their children when they get on a swing at the park—safety has to be practiced on an active and consistent basis.

Rules have to be set, examples have to be followed, and accidents have to be prevented. To this end we have launched new projects to teach safety to bicycle riders and pedestrians. "Mered," which stands for the Hebrew words Enough Killing on the Roads, is a program that teaches drivers polite and responsible road conduct. Our traditional preventative health and safety education projects continue.

We call on parents, teachers and leaders throughout Israel to join us in making safety the first priority of a nation who loves its children and respects life.

The writer is national president of Hadassah Women's Zionist Organization of America.

POSTSCRIPT

To the beat of a Christian pop band, British clergy recently sashayed down a catwalk to show what the best dressed clerics will be wearing into the 21st century.

About 150 people watched the "Clergy on the Catwalk" show in London.

As a showcase, it had everything: ordinary vestments and stoles and those bits of clerical garb used only on special occasions.

Rev. Andrew Roberts, a minister in central England, whose bright suit featured lavish gold fish, said he felt the garb "says the church is relevant to the modern world."

Rev. Mick-Elfred, vicar of St. Mary's in Sanderstead, south of London, showed off a sumptuous purple robe with scenes of Christ's crucifixion and resurrection.

The whole point of vestments are really to hide our personality and draw people's attention to God—I'm like a walking visual aid, if you like," he said.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

IEC MONOPOLY

Sir, I believe that Industry Minister Natan Sharansky is interested in declaring the Israel Electric Corporation a monopoly. "Tadmor might declare IEC a monopoly" (June 18), not in order to control it better but to take it away from National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon.

After all, the overwhelming majority of shares in this utility are owned by the government, which thus can appoint directors and managers to control the company effectively.

In practice, this right is in the hands of the Infrastructure Ministry and the Treasury. In addition, the new Public Utilities

Authority-Electricity now also has a finger in the pie.

Therefore, where is the need for another new player in the affairs of a corporation that has kept improving its service to the public, at prices that are often less than those paid in other countries.

I am afraid that the real objective here is to sell parts of the IEC to rich local and overseas clients of the Trade and Industry Ministry, with the consequent loss of the possible widespread Israeli public ownership, which privatization is supposed to bring.

PETER HIRSCHMANN
Haifa.

NO LAUGHING MATTER

Sir, I refer to Samuel Lewis's letter "Lavish Weddings" (June 19). I read, with amazement and incredulity, his idiotic suggestion that loud music at lavish weddings is beneficial since it provides employment for hearing-aid fitters and ear specialists.

Using this line of thought one might recommend eliminating traffic lights and pedestrian crossings in order to employ more doctors, nurses and hospital workers!

If Lewis meant to be funny, as the wearer of hearing aids in both ears for many years, I can say to him that impaired hearing is no laughing matter.

I propose that Lewis stuff both his ears with cotton for just one normal working day, in order to discover what a foolish and improper comment he made.

ZEV KOSSIN
Jerusalem.

ILLEGAL ACTIONS

Sir, — If something is illegal — it is illegal.

If Arutz 7 is functioning illegally, then why are all the "saints" in the National Religious Party up in arms and so blatantly agreeing to this illegality and fostering it, instead of urging those that are breaking the law to obey it.

Their actions are helping to

bring the law into contempt. For a government minister to threaten, or even suggest, bringing down the government in support of an illegality causes me to lose all faith in our so-called leaders — not that I had very much faith before.

ISAAC CAMRASS
Jerusalem.

FALSE MESSIANISM

Sir, — As a religious Jew whose life was deeply influenced by Habad, and who has great sympathy for many of its teachings, I must applaud David Newman's recent op-ed piece "False messianism" (June 17).

In religious terms, Habad was, for many decades, a powerful and positive form of *kiddush hashem*, sanctification of God's name.

With the source of its power in its unconditional love for Jews, Judaism, and in the leadership of the late Lubavitcher rebbe, may his memory be a blessing, it brought thousands of estranged Jews closer to their heritage.

However, the campaign proclaiming the rebbe as the messiah, even after his death, has turned Habad into a major desecration of God's name. The rabbis of the Talmud warned that love, besides being positive, can also "upset the rules of proper conduct."

Contrary to the claim made by Ira Jacobson in his letter "Belief in the messiah" (June 18), that the Habad "messianism" is a fringe group who do not truly represent Habad, it is clear to anyone in Israel that the "messianism" is the overwhelming majority and the major force within Habad today.

This only increases the tragedy. All concerned must raise their voices in support of the small minority of Habad hassidim who have the intellectual integrity and the moral courage to stand up against false messianism.

SETH (AVI) KADISH
Karmiel.

FROM OUR ARCHIVES

65 years ago: On June 23, 1933, *The Palestine Post* reported that in spite of the arrangements made by the Mandatory Government for the settlement of the Wadi Hawareth Bedouins, the Arab press continued to depict their plight in exaggerated terms. The Magistrate's Court ruled that there was absolutely no case

for further compensation for the Mukhtar of Kuskus-Yabun who sold the land and had signed papers stating that he had no further claims whatsoever.

50 years ago: On June 23, 1948, *The Palestine Post* reported heavy explosions aboard the burning 5,500-ton tank landing craft, *Athalena*, the IZL arms ship which

arrived in Tel Aviv and was prevented by the Israel Army from violating the cease-fire. Members of the crew jumped into the sea, the last man off was Menachem Begin. The two days of fighting between the Irgun and the Army resulted in the known casualty toll of 12 killed and 40 wounded.

Alexander Zvielli

FIRST, open the compound up to the 6,500 Jews who have recently streamed into Addis Ababa. The

previous agreement to close the compound did not anticipate a war up north, pogroms against Ethiopian Jewish families, or a severe downturn in the health of the Jewish communities of Gondar.

The compound is not registered to any of the American or Israeli organizations. It is property owned by the Beta Yisrael community of Addis in order to have a safe area to teach their children, feed their families, work, seek medical help, and prepare for their aliyah. Israel's audacity to force the compound to close — and to cajole the JDC to accept this misguided and immoral policy — is indicative of the paternalistic attitude that has characterized much of Israeli policy since the miraculous airlift six years ago.

The various organizations who last year agreed to close the compound were irresponsible. Last year, Israel's former ambassador to Ethiopia, Avi Granot, recommended to the JDC that they set up medical and other facilities in the north. They didn't. Now, with the Jews victims of violence and fleeing an imminent war, efforts to close the compound must be accompanied by significant relief, safe-haven and aliyah processing in areas where Jews live.

Otherwise, the landless and destitute Jews will continue to flee to Addis Ababa.

Second, immediately bring home the 3,000 Kwara Jews who have been languishing since 1992. There are no significant questions of personal religious status.

Granot says that the vast majority are eligible for aliyah. Many have needlessly died waiting because of Israeli bureaucrats who have undermined the aliyah. Since there is little to no organizational accountability in Jewish life — and the JDC has thus been able to keep its board of directors in

Another bit of exotica bites the dust

Remember the foreign correspondent who battled local conditions in far-flung places to get his story home? He's gone, writes **Rone Tempest**, replaced by the computer-savvy field journalist who can juggle the Internet's vast resources

It was 2 a.m. on a steamy night in Jakarta. A few dozen foreign correspondents, including a reporter for a new American Internet news service, positioned themselves outside the parliament building. Near the main gate to the building, red-beret special forces troops engaged in a dangerous standoff with several thousand student demonstrators.

Only a few days before in the raging Indonesian political crisis, six students had been killed by troops on a nearby university campus.

In the context of late 20th-century history, it was a fairly familiar scene: nervous troops, agitated students and hovering journalists poised for some denouement.

But at least for the older correspondents — men and women who over the years had covered assassinations, coups, invasions, tribal wars and the end of the Cold War — there was a sense, both exciting and somehow troubling, that an era had ended. Practically everyone was plugged in.

For many Americans, the image of the foreign correspondent used to be one of exotic distance. It was Ernest Hemingway cabling dispatches from the Italian front. It was the great war correspondent Ernie Pyle fighting military censors to bring the American fighting man's story to newspaper front pages.

But in a relatively short time, the worldwide, computer-driven information revolution has radically altered the way foreign correspondents cover the world.

Television, inspired by CNN and the 24-hour news format, made the transition years ago with satellite technology. But now, even the more technologically challenged newspaper correspondents are wired.

Virtually every reporter standing outside the turtle-shaped parliament building in equatorial Jakarta carried a cell phone. Many were busy updating their stories to news desks in New York and Chicago, Paris and Sydney, Australia, as the events unfolded.

Newspaper photographers carried filmless digital cameras capable of instant computer transmis-

sion via laptop computers. Laptops also connected some of the journalists to electronic databases containing more information and background than all the libraries of all the newspapers in the world combined. It was at least theoretically possible to access this massive archive and check for names and relevant historical precedents while standing on the parliament grounds.

IT'S NOT so much that the news has changed; it's how it is collected and transmitted that is different.

Flashback to Bhopal, India, December 1984: Foreign correspondents from three American newspapers stand outside the local Union Carbide office frantically composing incomplete stories on portable typewriters set up on the hood of a dilapidated taxi. Bhopal, sleepy capital of a large state in central India, had no international phone lines.

The reporters scramble to finish as much copy as they can about the deadly Union Carbide insecticide plant disaster, which killed thousands of sleeping slum dwellers, in time to "pigeon" it out with a colleague on the 3 p.m. flight to New Delhi.

Much later that night, wire service telex operators, some of whom did not speak English, retyped the messy sweat- and dirt-covered sheets of copy and sent the correspondents' work to US papers.

Even in its romantic heyday, the job of foreign correspondent was usually more physical than mental. The principal objective was how physically to get information home.

In some places this meant finding a cable office and sending off cryptic dispatches. In others it meant pounding on the keys of telex machines that produced a coded tape for wiring stories out.

Newspapers called their foreign reporters "correspondents" or, more pretentiously, "envoys." The reporters usually referred to each other as "hacks," a self-deprecating term that better described the drudgery of the work.

Reporters who had the endurance to stay up all night, small-talk and bribe telex operators and outdrink their sources and competitors usu-



The way things were before the information revolution radically altered the way foreign correspondents cover the world: Now it's filmless digital cameras capable of instant transmission via laptop computers.

ally had the upper hand.

In Mogadishu, the capital of Somalia, "after the now-forgotten Ogaden war," recalled *Los Angeles Times* reporter David Lamb, a veteran of three decades as a foreign correspondent, "about 40 hacks showed up at the post office, which had the only two available telexes in the city. There was one puncher, and we bribed like hell to get at the head of the queue."

But by 1992, when Dik Olojede began covering Africa for *Newsday*, all that had changed. Between 1992 and 1997, Olojede traveled to 25 African countries and never once used a telex machine. "I wouldn't know what to do with one if you showed it to me," Olojede said. But like other reporters of his generation, Olojede, 38, is extremely well versed in computer communication.

When he was in Indonesia for

the recent events, one of the first things he did was subscribe to a local Internet service.

IN TODAY'S high-tech journalism, the advantage often goes to the computer-savvy field journalist who can negotiate the Internet and organize the vast amounts of information it provides.

One of the foreign reporters standing outside the Indonesian parliament building was Karl Huus, a Seattle-based correspondent for MSNBC on the Internet, a joint venture between Microsoft and NBC News founded in 1996.

In some ways, Huus' work is conventional. For example, like a newspaper reporter, she composes written copy in story form and sends it to her editors at the Microsoft headquarters in Redmond, Washington state. Also, much like a classic radio reporter,

she records interviews and ambient sounds from major events.

She also carries a still camera, the same as those used by professional photographers, and a video camera, not much different from those used by television crews.

What's new is that Huus, who is sometimes accompanied by a technical producer, can combine all of these media in the same story. The result, which appears on the Web site, is a multimedia story that allows viewers to read, hear and view the event she is covering.

The resulting report, called a

"package," contains highlighted hyperlinks that, if the Internet user clicks on them, can produce practically everything but the smell of the scene she is describing.

Such intimacy would have been unimaginable to the older foreign correspondents, who often filed their stories not knowing if they ever reached the home office.

And just a few years ago, what correspondents filed was mostly what they already knew in terms of background, or what they had personally witnessed in their day of reporting.

Contrast that with today, when field correspondents usually have computer access to massive databases.

Critics complain that this system, supplemented by near-universal access to 24-hour cable and satellite news such as that on CNN, produces reams of homogeneous copy, as competitors read the same material and often produce similar stories.

But other observers contend that foreign correspondents were never that original anyway.

(Los Angeles Times)

Europe's last pagan state

Lithuania proudly claims to be the last surviving pagan nation in Europe.

Although the former Soviet republic is now as devoutly Catholic as it was pagan, it is to host a meeting of followers of the old religion at the grandly named June 20-25 World Pagan Congress.

Those expecting slaughtered goats and wild-haired madmen are sure to be disappointed — the reunion is a more sedate mix of ethnographers, hippies and New Age followers.

The meeting, with participants from Latvia, Russia, Britain and the US, consists of lectures and other events, beginning with the summer solstice feast of Rasa on June 21.

"Our paganism is very different from natural paganism, which could have elements of blood sacrifice," says Jonas Trinkunas, a leading old religion scholar and member of Lithuania's main pagan group, Romuva.

In the old traditions we know that there were blood sacrifices, but only rarely of men and then only during the war with the crusaders," he said. "Our paganism is more modern, a sort of intellectual paganism."

Trinkunas, who masterminded the congress, said he wanted to bring pagan groups together to exchange ideas and give these tiny religions some political leverage.

"We want to have some kind of common movement and we want official recognition," he said of the 20 or so groups that have confirmed attendance.

Romuva, despite having roots that go much deeper than the country's Catholic heritage, is not officially recognized as a religion.

Organizers note that the 100 or so people expected to attend are only loosely connected under the rubric of "pagan," and there is sure to be some discord.

"One German group I know is interested in magic, which is very artificial and not very important," said Trinkunas.

"But the common bond is that

No slaughtered goats or madmen are expected at the festival taking place this week in Lithuania, where roots of the ancient religion survived Christianity.

Jonathan Leff reports

all of these small groups feel the oppression of large, traditional religions." Paganism in Lithuania is deeply rooted. The country converted to Christianity in two phases in 1387 and 1413.

This made it the last officially pagan state in Europe, conversion occurring only when the country united to form a commonwealth with Poland in 1386.

But even after the official conversion, the tenacity of the old beliefs proved stronger than the missionaries.

The Catholic church that Lithuania joined was heavily under Polish influence, with the result that people in small villages were even more unwilling to adopt it as their own.

Only after the Protestant Reformation of the 16th century did the church seek actively to convert the largely peasant population. The last pagan temple was closed in 1790.

Paganism made a comeback during the Lithuanian national revival in the 19th century, brought on by decades of playing second fiddle to Poland and years of Russification.

"This was a reaction of our own culturalists against the strange, Polish forms of Christianity. They were looking for their own forms," said Egle Lomenskaitė, the director of the center for religious studies at Vilnius University.

Paganism continued to be linked to a particular feeling of Lithuanian nationalism after the country first became a nation state in 1918 and existed during the pre-World War Two independent country.

The Soviet occupation in 1944 saw Romuva banned, although Trinkunas was one of the few who kept it alive by re-forming the group in the 1960s.

After a 1971 Rasa celebration that attracted several hundred people, the authorities intervened and the KGB, the Soviet security police, jailed several members.

Trinkunas was expelled from the university and spent the next 15 years in the countryside.

He was allowed to return to his home in Vilnius only during the period of perestroika, a time when national protest was growing along with interest in Romuva.

Attendance at pagan celebrations topped 1,000 at the end of the 1980s, but enthusiasm for the old religion declined after Lithuania broke from the Soviet Union. Romuva now has a membership of around 200.

Although formal adherence to the pagan religion is slight, there are clear signs of its survival in Lithuanian popular culture.

"Quite a number of pagan traditions have survived intact throughout the last hundreds of years," said Audrius Dundzila, a Lithuanian-American who lives in Chicago, heading a group of some 15 to 20 Romuva members.

"The [Christian] church amalgamated them because it couldn't stop them," he adds.

The Rasa festival of June 21 was Christianized into the St John's Day feast, which takes place on June 24, but is still a mainstay of Lithuanian life.

On that day, the countryside lights up with bonfires as all-night

revellers set wreaths with candles afloat on rivers and young couples search for a mythical forest fern.

"These holidays have been celebrated continuously, if not publicly then privately in small groups. They are a major part of the Lithuanian national psyche," said Dundzila, who studied mythology and folklore before becoming a computer technician.

Pieces of folk art were also Christianized, such as the figure of "The Worrier," a wooden carving of Christ resembling Auguste Rodin's "The Thinker," a seated figure with his head resting on his fist and a worried look etched on his face.

"This is really the figure of Vairagantus, the protector of the fields. Christians simply added the crown of thorns," Dundzila said.

Although Lithuania held to its pagan beliefs for longer than any other country, it embraced Catholicism with equal vigour.

The Catholic Church and Romuva exist in a kind of uneasy truce brought about by the strong juxtaposition of the two in this small country of 3.7 million.

Sharing a central square with Vilnius' main cathedral is a large statue of Grand Duke Gediminas, the pagan medieval ruler of Lithuania who is credited with uniting the country and founding the capital.

The statue was erected recently in a ceremony including several ritual offerings from the Romuva group — all meters away from the main Catholic church.

Church officials are reluctant to speak out against Romuva. "They are free to do what they want. I respect the freedom of everyone," Archbishop of Vilnius Audris Juozas Bachkis told Reuters. He declined further comment on Romuva.

Dundzila said the church has accused Romuva of idolatry, but dismisses the claim as hypocritical.

"There isn't a single use of an image in Romuva, but if you go inside a Catholic church there are many. The Catholic church is clearly the idolatrous one," he said.

(Reuters)

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After cyberbirth

Well, I made a sincere attempt to witness the first live birth of a baby on the Internet last week – but, like most of those around the world who tried to get a peek, I was crowded out. Too many people wanted to watch the birth, and access to the site was severely limited. So most prospective viewers, like me, were disappointed.

Two questions leapt to mind when the event first grabbed world headlines: Why would anyone want to broadcast this extremely intimate and highly stressful moment of their life on the Internet, and why would so many people – includ-

wanted maximum exposure, published their diaries or painted revealing self-portraits.

Today you need not attract media attention to win your 15 minutes – or longer – of fame. I've had people ask how I could expose so much of my life in a newspaper column. Well, looking at what some people are showing off on the World Wide Web, I can only laugh at that. In the modern age there is no need to turn your life into art, or journalism, to share it with the world. You can put your life on the Net, uncut and uncensored. In a recent example, one young woman actually set up an



Allison Kaplan Sommer

Once those who wanted to share their lives with the world sat down and wrote a novel. Today you can lay it all out on the Net, uncut and uncensored

ing me – who to witness it? After all, we're not talking about some rare phenomenon, we're talking about an event that happens constantly, in every hospital, in every city, in every country, at any moment, somewhere in the world.

I mean, we don't have the excuse of, say, the World Cup, that takes place only every four years.

The speculation that the Internet lines were crowded with hopeful spectators who expected the birth to be a pornographic event? You have to laugh.

Anyone who has been through childbirth or witnessed it knows that it is many things – but a turn-on? I think not.

The Internet birth follows a rather exhibitionist trend in which more people are voluntarily letting Internet surfers into private corners of their lives.

Preceding the Internet birth were several Internet weddings; but broadcasting nuptials into cyberspace made a bit more sense to me. After all, a wedding is, by nature, a public event, and much of its point is to tell the world that two people have become man and wife. It frequently takes place in front of hundreds of people anyway.

But, increasingly, the Internet is being used to bring events that are usually very private into the public eye. Once upon a time, those who wanted to share their lives with the world sat down and wrote a novel, or, if they

Internet-friendly camera in her room and let the world peek in on everything she was doing there, from brushing her teeth to hosting her boyfriend overnight.

It is not a big leap from these phenomena to the woman who chose to invite the world to join in the birth of her baby. Following the event's great popularity, the question is not whether there will be other Internet births, but whether some entrepreneur will sign up women to do it on a regular basis, broadcasting nonstop labor at www.birthis.com, running little headers of advertising above the pictures of the groaning women and allowing us to send encouraging "Push, push!" e-mails in real time.

As for why we'd watch – the answer is probably the same as why we watch movies and television, buy the latest biography of Princess Diana, follow the OJ Simpson story, or read our kid sister's diary.

We human beings are hopelessly, uncontrollably nosy. And the idea that we will watch whatever intimate life event is served up to us on our computers is somewhat frightening to contemplate.

Having watched birth, what will be brought to us next through cyberspace? One hopes Dr. Kevorkian and other euthanasia advocate types – or worse, nutty serial killers – take no deep interest in the power of the Internet.

Otherwise, the first Internet death might be just a few keystrokes away.

Ice creams of your dreams

With onion, spaghetti and squid on offer, who'd want chocolate and vanilla? Bart Jones asks



One man's "yechh!" is another's "yummi!" – and if this client should tire of his tuna-flavored treat, Oliveira has another 708 flavors to tempt him.

ination is delicious," said Elizabeth Sanchez, an engineer on vacation who stopped by recently to try a scoop of shrimp and a scoop of beer. It was good, she said, even though "you feel kind of strange" eating it. Later she had a mix of coffee

and liqueurs dubbed "Coffee and the Scent of Woman" after a Colombian soap opera.

WHEN Oliveira first started out, professors at a local university, fearful the bizarre ice creams could be dangerous, sent students to smuggle out samples to be tested in laboratories. The professors never released their findings, and customers kept pouring in.

Oliveira says his recipes, all with natural ingredients, are a family secret. The only other people who work in the store are a daughter, a nephew and a son-in-law.

He cooks the fish, spaghetti and meat in the back kitchen, then mixes it with ice cream. Oliveira says he has no problem selling all the flavors he makes.

The Coromoto – named after Venezuela's patron saint – also offers more traditional flavors such as chocolate, vanilla, strawberry and coconut. They're mainly for children, who often are "scared" by the unusual flavors, Oliveira says.

Not all of the 709 flavors are offered every day. Customers choose from a rotating menu with 60 flavors. The top sellers are corn, rose petals, trout and a concoction Oliveira recently came up with called "France-98" in honor of the World Cup soccer competition. It includes champagne, brandy, wine, almonds and nuts.

The business has attracted visitors from as far away as Germany, Japan, New Zealand, the US and Russia, who also come to this picturesque city of snow-capped Andean mountains to ride the world's longest and highest cable car.

Photos and cards from customers, along with a list of all the flavors, fill the store's walls.

On his best day ever, Oliveira says he sold 1,800 cups of ice cream in eight hours – about one every 15 seconds. (AP)

Try a little self-love this time

Dear Ruthie,
We think our daughter is making a terrible mistake by marrying a man she's only known a couple of months. The "wedding" is to take place in a few weeks on a beach in another country. It is very expensive for us to get there, and anyway, we are opposed to the whole thing.

Our daughter has always been stubborn, and gotten her way. And she has always ended up regretting her impulsive decisions, coming to us for support and assistance when one of her "plans" doesn't turn out the way she originally intended.

This time we feel we have no choice but to implement a policy of "tough love" – regarding both the expense and our emotional support. We believe that her confidence that we will continue to bail her out of situations she gets herself into – no matter how hard we tried to point out the consequences beforehand – is harming her as well as us. We have tried to instill in her those values we hold sacred, but it doesn't seem to have worked. She goes through life with no apparent aim, leaving us to pick up the pieces wherever they fall.

But we are also upset that the first time

we're choosing to exercise our will should be at our daughter's wedding, which she says is the most important day of her life. Can you help?

In a Daughter Dilemma
Somewhere in the US

Dear Dilemma,

If, as you point out, trying to instill your values in your daughter hasn't worked, perhaps it's time you began looking differently at your role as parents. After all, regardless of whether she has found what you consider to be a purpose in life, your daughter is now a grown woman.

Up till now, it seems, you have been concerned with trying to steer her in the right direction. Rather than allowing herself to be steered, however, she has gone off on all kinds of tangents, leaping before she looks. Then, rather than letting her face the consequences of her "impulsive decisions," you've stepped in with a safety net – what you refer to as "bailing her out."

Now you find yourselves resenting the fact that your daughter never learns from her experiences, wanting to embark upon a course of "tough love" – and feeling guilty about considering the option of not attending her wedding, an option you are uncomfortable about exercising.

Changing the way you look at your role as parents, then, is as crucial to your well-being as it is to your daughter's. But this change need not be one of declared "tough love." Instead, it could be declared "self love," shifting the focus from your daughter's happiness to your own.

This is easier said than done, because it requires adhering to own values while not feeling obliged to "pick up the pieces" of your daughter's mistakes.

Up till now you have insisted on stating your case to your daughter, hoping somehow to persuade her that your way of life is the "right" one. Each time she fails to live

accordingly, you put it on one of her "plans" doesn't work out the way she originally intended" – you end up overwhelmed with worry and guilt.

Perhaps, from now on, you could decide to allow her to "fail" when she leaps, without this disturbing your balance of mind.

Once you can come to terms with the fact that, though she is your child, she is a separate entity with a life of her own to screw up (if she chooses), your daughter will have no choice but to come to terms with it as well.

And once you've made up your minds to do this, you'll be able to make the decision about whether or not to attend your daughter's wedding – based not on your desire to educate or punish her, but on whether the venue and timing of the event suit the two of you.

Letters should be addressed to: "Dear Ruthie," POB 81, Jerusalem 91000. For E-mail: ruthie@post.co.il ("Dear Ruthie" also appears in Jerusalem and in City Lights on Fridays.)

Grapevine will return on Friday

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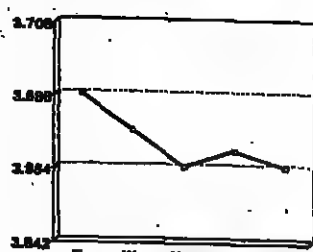
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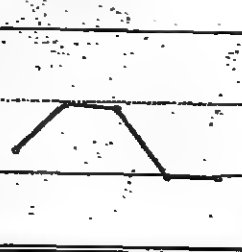
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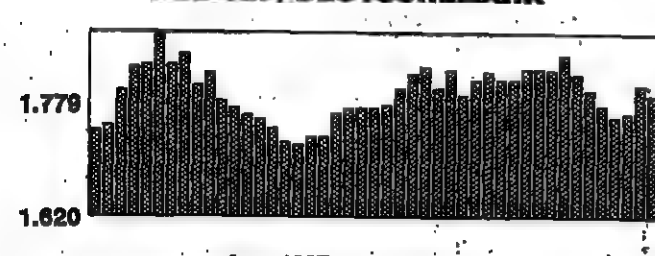


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Foreign investment falls in 1998

Foreign investment fell in the first five months of the year to \$806 million from \$1.46 billion (44.8 percent) in the same period last year, the Bank of Israel clarified yesterday. The announcement came one day after Bank of Israel head of research Leo Leiderman said that foreign investments plunged by more than 50% since the beginning of the year. The bank noted, however, that capital inflows plunged in the first five months of 1997 to \$333m from \$1.27b, a year earlier as foreign investors preferred to finance their activity by using credit from the Israeli banking sector. **Dan Gerstenfeld**

Nestle increases stake in Osem

Swiss food giant Nestle has increased its stake in Osem Investments to 47.1 percent by acquiring a 7.4% stake from the Weil family for NIS 120.9 million, Osem announced yesterday. Nestle, the world's largest food conglomerate, has been gradually increasing its stake in Osem. Two years ago it purchased 25% of the food producer from Claridge Israel for \$140m. **Dan Gerstenfeld**

Hapoalim mulls public offering abroad

The Arison group is considering the possibility of offering shares of Bank Hapoalim on the capital markets of the US and Europe, the bank said yesterday in a statement to the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange. The country's largest bank said terms of the offering were not decided yet but Goldman Sachs was chosen as underwriter. **Dan Gerstenfeld**

Daesung head explored ventures here

Kim Su-Koon, chairman of the Korean concern Daesung, visited here last week to explore opportunities for joint ventures with local firms and research institutes, especially in energy, communications, Internet and smart cards. Kim was hosted by the Industry and Trade Ministry's Center for Investment Promotion. This weekend the center is to host a delegation of company heads from the United States, including Chase Manhattan Bank. Kim said he made the visit here, because he personally explores all new areas in which the concern launches activities. He said he was especially impressed with the high-tech firms here and is to maintain contact with several of them. **Nina Gilbert**

DBS competitors say Israel requires only one operator

By STEVE ROOAN

Some six candidates are expected to compete for licenses for direct-broadcast satellite (DBS) services next month but most executives say that the Israeli market cannot support more than one provider.

Those expected to apply for licenses include Gilat Communication Engineering, Clalcom, Unicorp Ltd., a consortium that includes US magnate Ronald Lauder, Stargate and possibly Bezeq, the government telecommunications company.

Under the guidelines expected to be formally released next month, companies will be granted licenses rather than concessions, thereby increasing the number of competitors to supply Israelis with direct-broadcast satellite (DBS) services. But executives say that Israel is too small a market for more than one provider. They point out that the country already has a well-developed cable network with more than a million subscribers.

"There's simply not enough business for three or even two operators in Israel," said Proper Abitbul, co-owner of Unicorp. "We assert this based on several marketing surveys that sought to determine the potential of the DBS market."

Unicorp is regarded as the most aggressive competitor for a DBS license. Abitbul said his company has exclusive rights to distribute

the Paris-based Canal channel to Israel, Jordan and the Palestinian Authority.

Tami Friedman, director of Israf Electronic Trading, who heads the Lauder consortium, agreed that several DBS operators would not be feasible in Israel.

"We are waiting to see how many operators are granted licenses and then we will make a decision on whether to enter the market," she said. Communications Ministry officials said the decision to grant licenses rather than concessions was part of a policy to encourage lower prices and better service for DBS subscribers. They said they hope to grant licenses to competitors by the end of the year and begin service in 1999.

Officials said they would allow DBS operators to choose their own satellite. They said they would not force any candidate to broadcast via the Israeli Amos communications satellite, produced by Israel Aircraft Industries and launched in 1996.

An industry source said DBS services could fill up to five transponders on the nine-transponder Amos satellite.

For his part, Abitbul said Unicorp plans to use the Amos because it has more transmission power than other satellites beaming to the Middle East. This means customers could use smaller dishes to receive satellite signals, he said.

Interest rates cut for 6th straight time

Frenkel: We considered leaving rate unchanged in wake of Japanese crisis

Jerusalem Post Staff

Bank of Israel Governor Jacob Frenkel yesterday announced, as expected, a 0.3 percent cut to July's key lending rate.

This is the sixth cut in as many months and takes the central bank's rate to 11.3%. However, Frenkel added that the current crisis in Japan weighed heavily in the

central bank's discussions ahead of the announcement.

"The question did arise, on the basis of the crisis in Japan, whether we should take the risk and continue reducing the interest rate," said Frenkel.

"We came to the conclusion that our present course allows the reduction in rates we have announced, but we must keep our

finger on the pulse and continue watching closely."

Frenkel said the "very impressive" achievements on the inflation front have allowed this latest cut.

Inflation is presently running at an annual 4% - 5%, well below the target of 7%-10% that had been set by the government for this year.

Asked whether he supports a reported Treasury proposal to

abolish annual inflation targets, Frenkel said he was not aware of such a plan.

"The discussions on this subject have not yet commenced," said Frenkel. "I am a big believer in the setting of targets as an integral part of economic transparency and as a way to monitor the rationale behind policies."

The Manufacturers Association

welcomed the rate reduction, but said it was a much smaller than needed. Association president Dan

Propper said that even after the yesterday's rate reduction, real interest rates in the economy are about 8%.

Frenkel, however, again warned against cutting interest rates too quickly. "This could lead to a turnaround in inflationary expectations," he cautioned.



Moody's dents the rupee

A foreign exchange dealer yells "all fall down" as the Indian rupee fell yesterday, after international rating agency Moody's cut India's credit rating to speculative grade. The rupee fell to a new low of 42.73 to the dollar from its previous close of 42.20. The Bombay Stock Exchange sensx also fell below the crucial 3000 mark. (AP)

PM, China's Rongji to meet on joint projects

By DAVID HARRIS

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and his Chinese counterpart Zhu Rongji will in the coming weeks compile a list of projects on which the two countries will cooperate, according to Prime Minister's Office Director-General Moshe Leon.

During Netanyahu's recent visit to China, the two agreed on a program of action ahead of the final decision on joint projects, explained Netanyahu's adviser on foreign investment and Bezeq Chairman Izzy Tapoohi, who was speaking at the economic conference at Zichron Ya'acov. "The two agreed to compile

lists of possible projects," said Tapoohi. "Among the areas being considered are high-tech, telecommunications and traditional industries."

When Netanyahu sets out for a visit to Australia on August 14, he will break his journey in Shanghai, where he will once again meet Rongji, said Tapoohi. There, the two will exchange their recommendations and consider their next steps. Leon said that is the aim, but added the stopover in China has yet to be confirmed.

Speaking about Bezeq's future, Tapoohi said in the long term the company hopes to enter the Chinese market. This, he said, he would like to achieve in conjunc-

tion with British-based Cable and Wireless, a company that already has interests in Hong Kong and holds a 13 percent stake in Bezeq.

Cable's CEO Richard Brown is very willing to undertake joint ventures in third countries, according to Tapoohi.

"We're not looking at any particular place," said Tapoohi. "For the next nine to 12 months we must concentrate on the local market. If we take resources away from Israel at this time of increased competition we'll lose out."

Additionally, Tapoohi said in 12-18 months the company will also look at Eastern Europe and the Middle East. "We want a share of that cake,"

he said. Here too, Bezeq will work with Cable or any other company that is familiar with the regional market.

"Bezeq has the technological base and we'll team up with others who have local expertise," he said. Meanwhile, the planned flotation of 20% of Bezeq shares will take place early next year, assuming the ministerial privatization committee approves the move at its next meeting, Tapoohi said.

"The sale will raise about \$500 million according to the company's current value," he added. The flotation will leave the government with a 35% stake in the company.

Neeman: No direct tax on TASE capital gains

By DAVID HARRIS

Finance Minister Yehoram Neeman yesterday ruled out the introduction of a capital gains tax on the stock exchange but not rule out the imposition of other taxation of the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange.

"There will be no tax on capital gains on the stock exchange, as a tax on the stock exchange," Neeman told reporters.

Asked if he is considering another tax on the bourse he said, "there's a limit to what I can answer."

The level of taxation very much depends on the extent to which the Treasury is able to cut tax exemptions, which currently amount to NIS 25 billion, he said at the sixth annual Israel Democracy Institute economic conference.

Neeman's key tax reform will be to reduce to the top income tax bracket from 50 percent to 30%, according to Knesset coalition whip Meir Sheerit. The plan will also include reducing health tax and National Insurance contributions from a total of 10% to 5%, Sheerit told The Jerusalem Post.

The changes will mean that those in the top tax bracket would hand over 35% of earnings rather than the present 60%.

However, a senior Treasury official denied Sheerit's figures saying the final outcome will be closer to 50%.

"The overall package will dramatically reduce the tax burden, but that will come at the cost of

cutting back on the number of exemptions," he said, having heard outline details of the plan from its architects.

The top income earners will not be the only ones to gain from the proposed reform. "The same way the top bracket will be reduced, so will the others," Sheerit added.

The MK expressed his doubts as to whether Neeman will be able to introduce the reform to the Knesset before the summer recess commences in early August.

Neeman had said he wanted to present his plan in the spring but Sheerit said it seems to be far from

completion. Yesterday Neeman admitted the program has still not been finalized but the changes will go into effect in January.

Many MKs, including coalition members, are already expressing their opposition to the likely method for financing the tax cut.

"I'm going to have to persuade a lot of people that removing many exemptions is a good thing," said Sheerit. "The way the system is at the moment, it isn't specifically the poor who are gaining from the exemptions."

Among the examples cited by Sheerit is the case of development

towns, where, he said, the better paid do benefit from various tax breaks but the lower income brackets don't, because their salaries are so low they don't even pay tax.

Neeman, as yet, has given no indication where the cuts will fall and how he will treat the thorny issue of capital gains.

Last week the minister introduced a separate plan to reduce the property tax on undeveloped land from 2.5% to 1.2%, recouping the money in several ways, including gradually removing exemptions on property gains tax for those owning land purchased between 1948 and 1960.

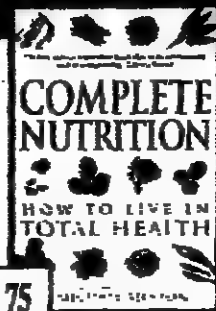
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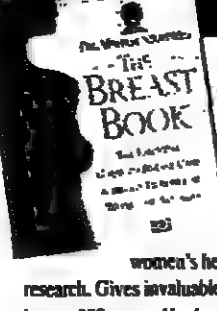
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Whither prosperity?

The US stock market has been unsettled lately, but it's still up 24 percent in the past year and 175% in the past five. The market loves what we've got: strong growth and low inflation. You should, too, whether you own stocks or not.

Since the last serious recession ended in 1982, the United States has created 32 million jobs. That's roughly two million annually, or a complete new General Motors work force every four months. The unemployment rate, at 4.3%, is the lowest since 1970. The rise in consumer prices, at 1.4%, is the lowest (with one exception) since 1965.

Short of an unpredictable event, like a giant meteor hitting California or a nuclear war in Kashmir, there are four major threats to the American economy's current prosperity:

■ **Protectionism:** The defeat of fast-track legislation last year was ominous – the first setback in 50 years on the march toward tearing down all barriers that prevent nations from trading. Free trade gives us things that are cheaper and better than we can make ourselves. It allows us to concentrate on what we do best – lately, high technology. No doubt, candidates such as Democrat Richard Gephardt and Republican Pat Buchanan will try to appeal to economic ignorance and xenophobia in the 2000 campaign. If they succeed, the Golden Age will end abruptly, as it did in 1929, when tariff wars broke out.

■ **The Surplus:** Ironically, the budget surplus has created the most serious fiscal crisis in 20 years. Given money, politicians will spend – they can't help themselves. When government spends, it takes money from private citizens, who, in the vast majority of cases, invest it or spend it more productively.

The deficit prevented politicians from spending, but the surplus this year should be at least \$50 billion, and could total \$1 trillion between now and 2003. Already, Congress and President Clinton are hard at work finding ways to consume that money.

The main reason for the surplus is the flood of tax revenues that has come from the economic boom. From 1993 to 1997, collections rose 44%, even though prices rose just 14%. For the first eight months of this fiscal year, revenues are up an incredible

10%.

As a result, federal taxes now represent 21.5% of GDP – the most since World War II. The only way to stop the spending is to restrict the flow of funds – with sweeping tax reductions. Yet, with the exception of a small, targeted cut (ending the so-called "marriage penalty"), Congress lacks the will.

■ **Deflation:** For the past 30 years, public policy has concentrated on the scourge of inflation: a rise in the general price level. But deflation, unknown here since the 1930s, is at least as bad – maybe worse, since, once it's started, it's extremely difficult to stop. Near-deflation has kept Japan in the dumps for nearly a decade, with no end in sight.

Can it happen here? Yes. Already, the prices that producers pay are falling: gold has dropped to \$288 an ounce. Asian countries, lacking a home market for their goods, will be exporting more and more – at lower prices. That's a good thing for consumers, but only as long as US companies can keep cutting their own costs and raising their productivity. Otherwise, deflation takes hold, and, as misery mounts, protectionist forces could block foreign goods – a nightmare scenario.

■ **A Fed Mistake:** Many recoveries and in monetary policy errors, and a hike in interest rates now by the Federal Reserve would send the economy into a tailspin. Rates, adjusted for inflation, already are very high. But a hike could happen. John Makin, of the American Enterprise Institute, recently wrote that the Fed is "constantly baffled by spectacular, inflation-free growth that defies the forecasts of its staff and most economists" and is itching to take the familiar step of raising rates.

The problem, says Chicago economist Brian Wesbury, is that "the Fed is not convinced that a 'new era' exists." But it does – the result of global capitalism, free trade and high-tech breakthroughs. Still, the balance is a delicate one, and the current 16-year Golden Age, the longest period in US history with only a shallow recession, could come to a sad and senseless end.

(Washington Post)

The writer is a fellow at the American Enterprise Institute

Waking up the sleeping giant

Clal Industries' Rimon Ben-Shaoul is faced with the daunting task of turning a cumbersome giant into a dynamic, flexible and competitive juggernaut

By DAN GERSTENFELD

One year after assuming office, Clal Industries and Investments CEO and president Rimon Ben-Shaoul can look back with satisfaction.

The former insurance manager was faced with the formidable task of turning the cumbersome and unfocused giant into a dynamic and flexible company ready to face rising competition. So far he has already succeeded in introducing several important changes in the business spirit of the traditionally conservative conglomerate.

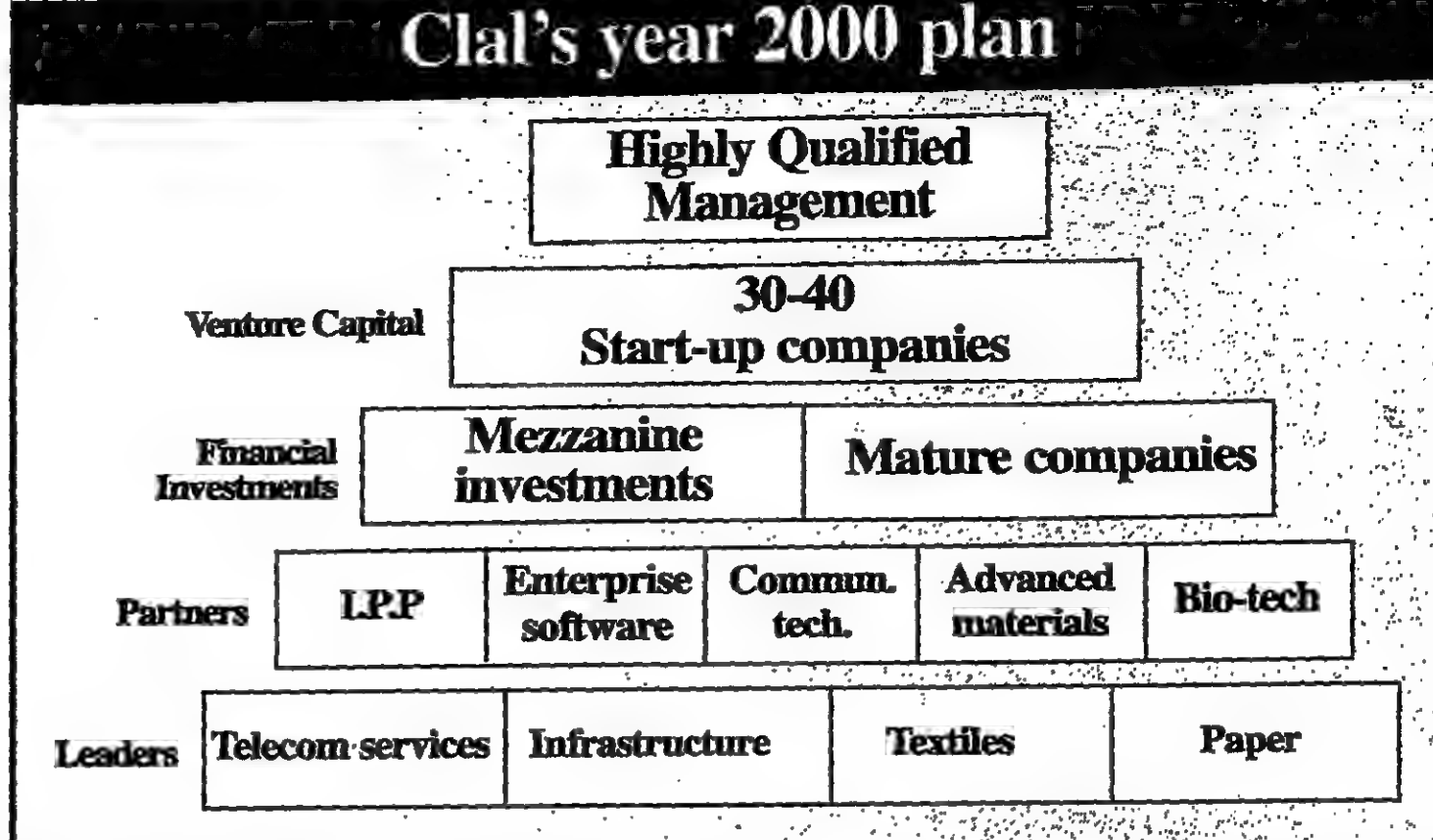
Despite the fact that the move from the insurance world into the industrial one was somehow forced upon him, the 53-year-old Ben-Shaoul seems quite satisfied. Twelve months ago, the former chief executive of Clal Insurance preferred not to wait for a decision forcing him to leave his job following the involvement of his company in the insurance cartel scandal, and decided to accept the offer to lead Clal's holdings arm. The fact that he was already well acquainted with the Recanates, who control the Clal holding company, saved him the adjustment period needed to learn how to maintain a delicate relationship with Clal's dominant owners.

Ben-Shaoul says his strategy is to change the composition of the company's portfolio, reducing the weight of traditional companies from 88% to 60% within three years. The new policy stands in stark contrast with Clal's tradition of maintaining firm loyalty to its subsidiaries, even when their performance was poor.

The strategic plan is aimed at raising the leverage ratio of its portfolio and re-arranging the holdings mix by selling low-yield companies and replacing them with investments in higher growth firms.

"We want to clean out some of the traditional ingredients and invest in high-tech companies," Ben-Shaoul said. He admits that the company's old policy suited a closed-market situation where Clal, Israel's second largest holding company, had a monopoly over certain sectors. "That was the right thing to do in a more colonial era," he says. "Now we are more dynamic, we are more business oriented and less imperialistic."

Ben-Shaoul, who calls losing companies "bleeding bodies," has



already sold holdings in Sunfire, Zion Cables, Gabor Sabina, Tambour and, most recently, Granit Hachamel. The sales are in line with his strategy of shedding losing holdings and bringing strategic partner to companies in which Clal has no relative advantage.

At the same time Ben-Shaoul is increasing Clal's investment in hi-tech, violating a traditional acquisition policy, by buying 10 to 15 percent of promising companies with plans to sell them for a higher price in the future.

So far, the new policy has led to investments in B.V.R. Technologies, Orkoi Communications, Qilat Satellite Networks, Fundtech and Nexus Telecommunications Systems. The company has also invested some \$50 million in venture capital funds.

Analysts believe these financial investments mark a true change in the business culture of Clal Industries.

"For the first time Clal is not seeking to control companies but views the investment as an opportunity to earn money by selling their holdings in the future," said an analyst at Bank Hapoalim.

As a result, analysts say, Clal is

not likely to repeat the Scitex fiasco of two years ago, when the Recanates rejected a takeover proposal from California based investor David Gil.

Gil had offered to pay \$25 per Scitex share at a time when the company's stock traded at only \$13 7/8, a price which is still higher than its closing price of \$12.5 on Friday. Ben-Shaoul says such a mistake will not happen again. "We will seriously consider selling companies for which we can get an excellent price," he says.

Analysts say Ben-Shaoul is on the right track. "They (Clal) are willing to hit where it really hurts and are willing to acknowledge their mistakes," said Yossi Borohov, of United Mizrahi Bank. "Rimon has no sentiments. He was given a free hand to introduce changes and he is doing it well."

While intent on shedding dead weight, Ben-Shaoul is also promoting what he calls a "return-oriented" strategy that leans on companies which guarantee solid income.

The companies, called "leaders" in Ben-Shaoul's lexicon, include cement monopoly Nesher Israel Cement Enterprises, its sibling

company Taavura Cement Containers, textile manufacturers Polgat and Kian, paper producer American Israeli Paper Mills, K.B.A. Town Builders Group, Scitex, ECI Telecommunications, and international phone services provider Barak ITC.

Ben-Shaoul also aims to raise Clal's return on equity from 1.6% last year to 5% this year. His goal is an equity return of 13% by the year 2000.

He may succeed.

Investors are showing growing confidence in Clal Industries' new management. Since February, the company's share gained some 31 percent on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange, 11 percentage points more than the benchmark Maof 25 index itself appreciated during the same period.

Asked what the company will look like in ten years, Ben-Shaoul replied: "Clal will be a technology oriented company with holdings in telecommunication, infrastructure and textile."

Yes, that's textiles. Ben-Shaoul strongly believes that despite its negative image, the textile industry presents new opportunities. "The ability to manufacture textile

across the border is a great advantage. We have transferred already 60% of our production out of the country, a move which will save us some NIS 30 million," he said. "We have the knowledge, the technology and the necessary developments. We have a real advantage over German companies producing in Morocco and Tunisia."

Despite the fact that he views the process of moving production to nearby Arab countries as necessary, Ben-Shaoul says that the closing of local production plants and the laying off of workers who have identified themselves with Clal for years was the toughest part of his job. "It's not easy to shut down a factory and fire employees but a losing company will continue to bleed until it finally dies. At the end, death hurts more," he concludes.

So far, Ben-Shaoul has proven that he has the courage to take what he views as necessary steps, and what everyone sees as painful ones. Now it is up to him to prove that the revolution he has started will actually lead to the recovery of what was known for years as Israeli industry's sleeping giant.

Castro 2000

While Israel's leading fashion chain is finally feeling the recession's crunch, director Gabriel Rotter is confident that he can turn present adversity into future profits

The past year has left Gabriel Rotter, managing director of Israel's leading fashion chain Castro Ltd., struggling with an unexpected question. Less than a year after notching up the best financial results ever, the future of the 48-year-old company has suddenly been thrown into doubt.

"It wasn't that we suffered losses, but for the first time in 20 years we felt threatened by the competition," Rotter says of business in 1997. "I had to ask myself a basic question – does Castro have a future?"

For over a decade it seemed that Castro, which went public on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange in 1992, had managed to buck national trends. While other textile companies around the country struggled for survival amid growing international competition, soaring raw material prices, currency rate problems, mounting imports and rising labor costs, Castro was going from strength to strength.

In 1985, company sales were \$1 million. Ten years later they were \$35 million and in 1996 they reached \$40 million. By then, Castro's empire included 36 stores and a staff of 490. It was the largest Israeli textile chain, the number-one earner in terms of turnover per-square-meter in women's fashion retailing and considered an anchor store in malls.

In just one year, however, the picture changed dramatically.

Instead of growing, sales froze at the previous year's level, and profits actually fell. In 1996, net profits were NIS 7.7 million. In 1997, that figure dropped to NIS 4.5 million.

The company stopped opening new shops, cut staff, and began outsourcing manufacturing to such destinations as Jordan, the Far East and Turkey, where manpower is cheap.

While Israel's recession and reduced consumer spending are partly to blame for the shift, growing competition is the main cause for Castro's decline.

Until this decade, Israel's textile market was relatively closed to foreigners and Castro's competition was mostly domestic. Since then, however, custom duties were sharply slashed and a host of popular European and American clothing chains – from Kookai to Naf Naf – have entered the Israeli market. Castro itself bought Italy's Stefanel and now has seven franchise shops.

The biggest dent, however, came in the last two years with the entrance of the highly successful Spanish brand-name giants

Zara and Mango.

"These are category killers," says Rotter. "Indeed, their influence is so huge that you either try to withstand the earthquake they cause or simply leave the market."

But, it's not only the big names that are causing problems. Cheap imported clothes made in the Far East, Turkey and other countries where labor and manufacturing costs are low, are also flooding the shops and new warehouse stores.

"There are so many more players in the field and everything is so new to the Israeli customer that they get confused. They don't have a heritage of 20 to 30 years, so the changes aren't clear," says Rotter.

Warehouse stores, he adds, tell customers that they sell fashion at cheaper prices than in specialized stores because they don't invest as much in atmosphere and marble flooring. They don't mention that they're selling overstocking, according to Rotter.

CASTRO, however, is no newcomer to hard times.

It has positively thrived on trouble in the past, often flying in the face of conventional wisdom to achieve great success.

Founded in 1950 by Aharon Castro, now company president, Castro operated for the first 30 years as a factory that manufactured dresses and later other women's garments for the wholesale market.

In 1980, Aharon asked Rotter, his son-in-law, to help him disband the company. But, Rotter had other ideas and decided to develop Castro.

His timing was awful. Hyper-inflation made a shambles of the business from 1980 to 1985. "It was a battle for survival," says Rotter. "There was no question of developing the business or increasing sales."

In 1985, in a last-ditch bid to save the company, Aharon and Rotter decided to focus on the domestic market and opened their first shop at the northern end of Dizengoff Street, Tel Aviv's main shopping area.

Coming at a time when most textile factories were sending goods abroad, it was a decision that swam against the trend.

"Exporters received a lot of help from the government via subsidies, loans or grants and this was often the only reason why factories began exporting. We wanted to build

a strong foundation strictly from a commercial point of view. We received no help from the government," says Rotter.

The shop was an instant success, and became the first in a chain of shops across Israel.

"It was the right decision," admits Rotter. "Today when I look at the textile industry and see the problems many exporters have run into, I realize we were lucky to choose the path we did."

Rotter's decision to avoid targeting a specific market – offering size 36 to 50 and outfits for every woman, from teenager to working mom – also boosted the company's success. "We were a kind of fashion supermarket," says Rotter. "We aimed ourselves at the whole market and it was a policy that worked."

With this kind of history, it's no surprise that Rotter's answer to Castro's 1997 slump is to try a new direction.

"We decided that if we wanted to cope with the category killers and new brands coming into Israel, we would not only have to adjust prices and improve quality, but find commercial advantage over them," he says.

"In the last year-and-a-half, we've changed dramatically. We've revolutionized our manufacturing process. If last year 90 percent of what we sold in our chain was manufactured in Israel, this winter 85 percent of our collection will come from outsourcing. We're manufacturing in Jordan, the Far East and Turkey. We even outsource with local manufacturers if they can give us flexibility."

Castro has also invested half a million dollars in computerization and has opened a new facility for design, manufacturing and outsourcing in Bat Yam.

Castro management expects to move there soon. "It will be much more efficient," predicts Rotter. "The separation is expensive and causes communication problems."

The company has also taken a new path with its merchandise. "We can't cater for everyone anymore. It won't work," says Rotter. "We need a clear strategy. We are focusing on being a leader in fashion."

For the consumer the bottom line is that Castro has stopped carrying larger sizes. "Size 50 by its very nature can't be fashionable," says Rotter. "Especially in today's fashion where everything is tied to the body and very tight."

Castro's collection has now been divided into two main lines. Castro Concept, which offers tailored suits and young evening dresses; and Castro Girl, a range of casual items like jeans, T-shirts and vacation items.

"I like to call these Club Med clothes," says Rotter. "Today we are less formal. If five years ago, the career woman was the issue, today people want clothes that give them more fun. They want to buy things that connect them to happy things like vacations. Maybe it's partly because of the recession."

To help achieve this new fashionable feel, Castro has beefed up its design team, bringing in three young designers from Shekhar to freshen up the lines.

It's still too soon to see results. So far this year, both sales and net profits are down. In the first quarter of last year, Castro saw sales of \$10.3 million and profits of \$630,000. This year the figures have fallen to \$9.5 million in sales, and \$200,000 in profits. Rotter blames this on the transition to outsourcing.

"We will see a drop in profits," he says. "But once things have settled they will start to climb back. We hope that by the end of the year we'll see better performance." He admits, however, that much depends on Israel's economy. "If the market goes into a deeper recession it will influence income," he says.

One answer to this is to continue building exports. For some years, Castro has been selling clothes through catalogues in Europe and the United States and the trade is steadily growing. In 1996, the company exported \$1 million in clothing, while in 1997 exports rose to \$4 million.

Bottom line, Rotter says he's confident that Castro will not only withstand the impact of the earthquake that has shaken his business, but also profit from it.

The ace up his sleeve, he says, is that Castro is an Israeli company in an Israeli market.

"It gives us an advantage over international companies," he says.

"We know what our customers want and can give it to them."

So does Castro have a future? "A lot of companies don't have the capital or the professional potential to transform themselves when the market changes but we do," he says. "If last year I had major question marks about Castro's future, today I'm optimistic."

As a result of all these problems we are now building Castro for the year 2000 and it will be a very prosperous company."

Building Blocks

By NINA GILBERT

JERUSALEM

The housing market in Jerusalem has experienced a reawakening, according to the local Anglo-Saxon branch. This is partly due to seasonal factors, but the activity in the Jerusalem market is far greater than in other Anglo-Saxon branches, according to Werner Lovel, managing director of the Jerusalem franchises.

At the same time, Lovel said that the only apartments being sold in the capital are those whose prices are being reduced, and are fetching 10 percent to 15% less than the amount received two years ago.

The pickup in activity is mostly in second-hand apartments. The greatest demand is for three-room apartments, according to the agency, which sold 12 such apartments in May. Lovel said he expected sales to increase further in July and August, especially to foreigners.

In Ramot, a five-room cottage on Rehov Aliyat Hanoar was sold for \$318,000 by Anglo-Saxon to new immigrants from the US. The home has 160 sq.m., a 50 sq.m. garden and a store-room. The agency also sold a one-and-a-half room, 45 sq.m. apartment on Rehov Arlozorov in Rehavia for \$130,000. The first-floor apartment was completely renovated.

MODERN areas

There is great demand for rental of three-room apartments in Modi'in, where they comprise only 20% of homes in the town, according to Century 21. The agency recently rented a 103 sq.m., three-room apartment on Rehov Nahal Hayarkon for \$375 a month. The apartment is on the second floor without an elevator. Also in Modi'in, the agency rented a six-room cottage on Rehov Nahal Sair for \$600 a month. The home has 200 sq.m. on two floors plus a basement. The owners had asked for \$650 a month.

The Ahim Hassid building company is offering discounts for the sale of 10 five-room apartments in its Young Modi'in project.

The apartments, which all face green areas, are being offered until July 15 for \$186,000, reduced from \$197,000. The contractor is also offering an additional NIS 100,000 loan, at 4.9% interest for 10 years. The 143-sq.m. apartments are high-standard, and include marble floors, electronic blinds, hard ceilings and parking. The project includes 11 buildings, with 102 units.

In Shoham, a house on Rehov Margalit was sold for \$400,000 by Anglo-Saxon. The home, which sits on a 590 sq.m. plot, has 170 sq.m. of floor space and another 120 sq.m. in the attic.

On Rehov Emeq Ayalon, a four-room apartment with 127 sq.m. of floor space with another 70 sq.m. in the attic was sold for \$230,000.

A four-room, 110 sq.m. apartment on Rehov Emeq Ayalon was rented for \$560 a month. The apartment is on the fifth floor with an elevator and partly furnished. A three-room apartment on Rehov Bosmat was rented for \$500 a month.

TEL AVIV and center


The city of Kfar Sava is holding a lottery for the sale of 183 apartments in the Neveh Hadarim area. The apartments are being offered in the first round to residents of the city for at least a year who have eligibility for Housing Ministry assistance. Four contractors are taking part in the project, which is to include spacious three and four-room apartments, some with gardens and others with attics. Construction is scheduled to take 28 months. Registration is to end on June 30. Prices start from \$130,000.

On Rehov Bodenheimer in Tel Aviv, a four-room apartment on the third floor was sold via Century 21 for \$325,000. The 100 sq.m. apartment is in excellent condition, but doesn't have parking or an elevator.

In Ramat Gan's Shikun Vatikim, a five-room villa was sold for \$530,000 by Anglo-Saxon. The house has 150 sq.m. of floor space and sits on a 265 sq.m. plot.

economic reforms at an emergency

Italy n



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FIFA: No teams will be kicked out

PARIS (AP) — Poor results, not poor fans, will get a team sent home early from the World Cup. Proclaiming that "we are not afraid," FIFA's new president yesterday ruled out expelling any team from the Cup because of fan violence.

"I said no. You can't have this," Sepp Blatter said after an emergency FIFA meeting. "We are not afraid, we are concerned. We have observed it and we are stronger. This World Cup will be disturbed again. We must stay here and play the games."

Blatter words were the crest of wave of tough talk from three nations struggling to deal with the problem before it over-

whelms the world's biggest sporting event. German hooligans were called "rioters, fanatics, and fascists" by French Interior Minister Jean-Pierre Chevènement, while German Chancellor Helmut Kohl and British government officials also condemned the violence.

Chevènement's comments were directed at the highly organized groups of neo-Nazis who rampaged through Lens before and after Sunday's Germany-Yugoslavia game, leaving a policeman in a coma after being clubbed with an iron bar.

"If it would have meant saving the policeman from his injuries, I would rather have lost the match,"

said German coach Berti Vogts. The game ended in a 2-2 draw.

The victim is Daniel Nivel, 44, who collapsed unconscious in a pool of blood on the sidewalk. A hospital spokeswoman said his condition didn't improve yesterday.

German police said a 27-year-old man from Hanover was arrested for attacking Nivel. His name wasn't released.

Germany played down suggestions that it was considering pulling out of the tournament because of the Lens violence.

"It might be that in the first moments of shock, the question of a measured reaction, possibly a withdrawal, was hinted at or raised," said German federation

spokesman Michael Novak. "But within the delegation there were no serious considerations to withdraw the team."

The world body said also that it would seek closer cooperation with political authorities, including those of the European Union, to fight hooliganism with new laws.

German soccer officials said they had warned police in France that known hooligans were traveling to Lens, within easy driving distance of Germany, for the match.

"There were already signs that people classified in databases as violent sports fans were traveling to the game without entrance tickets," the German federation said.

Janzen passes Stewart on links to win US Open

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Lee Janzen won the 1993 US Open by holding off Payne Stewart down the stretch. On Sunday, he turned back Stewart once again in the Open, this time by overcoming a seven-stroke deficit.

Showing startling confidence on a day when no one was making birdies at The Olympic Club, Janzen played the final 15 holes four under par for a 68 to finish at even-par 280, one stroke ahead of Stewart.

Stewart came to the 18th hole needing a birdie to force an 18-hole playoff. But his approach was above the hole and he had a very difficult, very fast downhill, curling putt.

When the ball broke just low of the hole Janzen, who was watching on TV, let out a big sigh and buried his head in a towel.

Stewart tapped in and walked dejectedly off the green.

Janzen had closed out his round 20 minutes earlier when he tapped in a 2-foot par putt while his father Larry clapped, appreciating the shot on Father's Day.

Janzen, playing two groups in front of Stewart, made bogeys on two of the first three holes and fell seven strokes behind — the same margin Billy Casper erased in the final nine holes against Arnold Palmer in the 1966 US Open at Olympic.

But for the fourth consecutive time, the third-round leader in the US Open at The Olympic Club was not able to protect the lead. Like

Stewart, Ben Hogan in 1955, Arnold Palmer in 1966 and Tom Watson in 1987 all finished second.

Because none of those three ever won another major championship, Olympic is known as the



Lee Janzen.

(Reuters)

Meanwhile, no one else among those within striking distance was able to mount a charge on the firm, fast and frightening Lake Course at Olympic.

Jeff Maggert, Bob Tway and Nick Price — all veterans of major championship pressure — had a chance but failed to make a move.

Perhaps the most heartbreaking of the also-rans was Tom Lehman, who started the day four strokes behind Stewart and was playing in the final group on the final day at the US Open for the fourth consecutive year.

But he merely added a fifth-place finish to the third, second and third he has had the three previous years.

Similarly, none of the young guns expected to contend in this Open was a factor. David Duval closed with a 69 and was at 287, along with Lee Westwood, the young Englishman.

Justin Leonard, Ernie Els, Tiger Woods and Jim Furyk were never a factor.

Other thrills came from other places. Casey Martin rode up the 18th fairway in his cart to warm cheers from the gallery and closed with a 72 to be at 291. Jack Nicklaus, playing the Open for the 42nd time, was at 295, one stroke better than Els, the defending champion.

Amateur Matt Kuchar shot a 74 and was at 289, one stroke better than Woods, who closed with a 73 that included a three-putt from 7 feet on the final hole.

Italy need self-confidence — captain



SENIS (AP) — Captain Paolo Maldini believes Italy will prove a great, almost unbeatable team as soon as it gets a kick of self-confidence.

The 29-year-old charismatic defender, the son of Italy's coach Cesare

Maldini and the team veteran with 90 caps, said that he and his teammates did not display their real potential in World Cup play so far.

"We are a great team of great players, with impressive physical and technical qualities. We must only improve our self-confidence to get a boost ... we must feel great," Maldini said Sunday at the team training camp before a closed-door session in preparation for today's crucial Group B match against Austria.

Italy, a three-time world champion, struggled to a 2-2 draw in the first game against Chile. It

defeated Cameroon 3-0 next overcoming a falling-off following the initial goal.

"We have been in trouble against Chile and Cameroon after failing to score a second, knockout goal. We have been struggling despite our better technique. We must be more determined," the Italian captain said.

Speaking about today's match against Austria at St. Denis, Maldini said Italy will play for victory. As Group B winners, Italy would avoid meeting Group A leader Brazil in the second round. Chile and Austria are tied with two points with Cameroon at one.

"We are looking forward to a tough match with Austria. We must not think to be in the second round already. It would be a dangerous attitude."

Brazil-Norway For Norway, the choice is simple: beat Brazil or risk elimination from the World Cup. The defending champions are out for some fun, practice — and maybe a little revenge.

Although first and second in Group A, the two teams seem headed in opposite directions as they prepare to meet tonight in the group's final qualifying game in Marseille.

The Brazilians are on an ascending curve. After a shaky 2-1 victory over Scotland, they steamrolled Morocco 3-0 to clinch first place with an insurmountable six points.

The mood at training camp is contagiously upbeat. Players talk about "building momentum" and being "on a roll" as they look ahead to Italy or Chile as a possible adversary in the next round.

For the Norwegians, nothing is going right. Although unbeaten in their last 16 matches, they managed only a disappointing 2-2 tie with Morocco and a 1-1 draw with Scotland.

That means they probably have to defeat Brazil to reach the second round for the first time in their history, although they could squeak by with a tie if Scotland and Morocco also tie.

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Jackson kisses Bulls goodbye

Leaves with best winning percentage in NBA history



CHICAGO (AP) — The Chicago Bulls' sixth championship was, indeed, the last with coach Phil Jackson.

Jackson won't return to the Bulls, despite an offer from chairman Jerry Reinsdorf to coach for another year.

Todd Musburger confirmed Sunday night, Jackson does not have another job, Musburger said.

Jackson's departure was first reported in an interview with Newsweek magazine, which went on sale yesterday.

That Jackson is leaving comes hardly as a surprise. His relations this season with Krause were strained, at best, and Jackson said after signing a one-year, \$6 million contract last summer that "wild horses" could not bring him back for another year.

He billed Chicago's sixth championship run the "Last Dance," and said his public goodbye at the Bulls' citywide celebration last week.

"I said no, it's time to step away and enjoy some different things," Jackson told Newsweek.

"For me, it's the perfect conclusion to a wonderful team," he said. "There's nothing we can do to top this anymore. Now it's time to step back from the game for a while."

Jackson has had "discreet feelers" from other teams, but said he did not expect to coach anywhere next season.

Jackson leaves this week for a vacation in Turkey with former New York Knicks teammate and U.S. senator Bill Bradley, who is considering a presidential bid.

With Jackson's departure official, the question now becomes what's next for the Bulls. Michael Jordan, who is especially close to Jackson, has had one-year con-

tracts the past two seasons and has said he won't play for anyone else. Jordan has softened his stance lately, saying he still wants to play. Much will depend on whom the Bulls select as their new coach.

Iowa State coach Tim Floyd, a favorite of Krause's, has long been considered a possibility, but it's unlikely Jordan would play for him.

But Jordan might consider playing for George Karl, who was fired a few weeks ago by the Seattle SuperSonics, or Kansas coach Roy Williams. Both are North Carolina alumni, as is Jordan.

Or Jordan, who scored the title-winning basket as the Bulls beat the Utah Jazz in six games, might simply choose to retire.

That Jordan, Dennis Rodman and, to some extent, Scottie Pippen, have such intense loyalty to Jackson is no surprise. A mediator, a motivator, an ex-hippie, Jackson used his somewhat off-beat methods to blend the egos of three of the most talented players ever into a team.

He was always able to get through to his players and relate to them with — as Jordan refers to it — "that Zen Buddhism stuff."

He bought them each books he thought would interest them before the first West Coast road trip.

Most importantly, Jackson's unusual style worked. He has the highest winning percentage of any coach in NBA regular-season (73.8) and playoff (.730) history.

But despite his six titles, he's captured just one of the year award, that coming in 1996 after the Bulls went 72-10, the best record in league history.

Jackson became Bulls head coach on July 10, 1989, replacing the fired Doug Collins for whom he had been an assistant the previous two seasons. Jackson worked his way up, coaching the Albany Patroons of the CBA for five years when he would often drive the team van with one hand while working the New York Times crossword puzzle with the other.

He spent 11 of his 13 NBA seasons as a player with the Knicks and was a member of their 1973 championship team.



BLUNDERMAKER — Oakland's Rickey Henderson steals second as Seattle 2B Joey Cora stretches in vain to take the errant throw in first-inning action. Henderson eventually scored on the play following a second bad throw. (Reuters)

Tribe pounds Irabu in 11-0 win

CLEVELAND (AP) — Bartolo Colon, Manny Ramirez and the Indians showed the Yankees and their fans that there's more than one dominant team in the AL.

Colon (7-4) struck out 10 in eight innings and Ramirez hit two of Cleveland's five home runs as Cleveland handed New York its most lopsided loss this season, an 11-0 shutout on Sunday.

Mark Whiten, Travis Fryman and Shawn Dunston also homered for the Indians, who split a four-game series by pounding Hideki Irabu (6-3).

Irabu entered with the lowest ERA in the league, but allowed a season-high five runs in three innings, his shortest outing of the year. His ERA went from 1.68 to 2.19.

Twins 6, White Sox 1
Mike Morgan took a shutout into the ninth and Brent Gates hit his first career grand slam to lead Minnesota to a road win.

Morgan (4-2) was three outs away from his first shutout in nearly five years when Mike Caruso homered on the right-hander's first pitch. He allowed four hits, walked two and struck out one. His last shutout came with the Cubs in 1993 against Colorado.

Mariners 10, Athletics 5
Rico Rossy came up from the minors and hit his first homer in nearly five years to lead host Seattle.

Edgar Martinez added a two-run homer as the Mariners scored four times in the fifth inning off Mike Quist (4-4) to take the lead and help Bill Swift (7-4) become the winningest pitcher on Seattle's staff.

Alex Rodriguez went 4-for-5 and scored twice for the Mariners, who won for just the second time in eight games despite making three errors.

Angels 10, Rangers 7
Darin Erstad drove in four runs and Jason Dickson won his seventh straight decision as host Anaheim won for the 13th time in 21 games.

Erstad's three-run double keyed a five-run second off Matt Perisho (0-2), and Anaheim scored five more runs in the third to take a 10-0 lead.

The Rangers closed within 10-7 in the ninth before Troy Percival got his 23rd save in 25 tries.

Juan Gonzalez got his major league-leading 89th RBI for Texas.

AL games reported in yesterday's edition:
Red Sox 3, Devil Rays 1
Nomar Garciaparra hit his 10th homer off Jason Johnson (2-4) as the Red Sox won for the ninth time in 11 games.

Blue Jays 7, Orioles 3
Shawn Green and Carlos Delgado homered to help visiting Toronto gain a split of the four-game series.

Royals 6, Tigers 5
Jeff Conine and Larry Sutton tied off on host Detroit and each had three RBIs.

NATIONAL LEAGUE
Phillies 6, Cubs 2
Despite yet another home run by streaking Sammy Sosa, host Chicago fell when Bobby Abreu drove in four runs and Tyler Green struck out 10.

Sosa's solo home run in the fourth inning was his 17th this month, extending his own major league record for homers in June and tying Willie Mays' National League mark for home runs in any month.

With eight games still left in June, Sosa has a good chance to break the Major League Baseball record for homers in a single month of 18, set by Detroit's Rudy York in August 1937.

Sosa has hit 30 home runs this season. He has connected 10 times in his last nine games, and 21 times in the last 22 games.

After he sent Green's 2-2 pitch into the bleachers, the Wrigley Field crowd gave him a standing ovation and some fans behind the dugout bowed as he returned.

Mets 3, Marlins 2
John Franco escaped a bases-loaded, no-out jam in the eighth inning as host New York ended a four-game losing streak.

Al Leiter (9-3), traded from Florida to the Mets in the offseason, won his sixth straight decision. He allowed two runs and six hits in seven innings, striking out seven and walking a season-high five.

Pirates 8, Brewers 7
Jose Guillen hit a grand slam as visiting Pittsburgh nearly blew a seven-run lead.

The Brewers, trailing 8-1 in the seventh inning, came back behind Jeff Cirillo. He hit a two-run single in the eighth, and another two-run single with two outs in the ninth.

Milwaukee's three-run rally in the ninth ended, though, when Dave Nilsson fouled out with the bases loaded to Ricardo Rincon, who held on for his ninth save.

Cardinals 5, Diamondbacks 4
Clint Sodowsky's bases-loaded wild pitch in the eighth inning helped host St. Louis extend its winning streak to four games.

Mark McDermott, who leads the majors with 33 home runs, went homerless for the third straight game. He walked in the first, struck out in the third, was hit by a pitch in the fifth and singled in the seventh.

Astros 3, Reds 1
Pete Schourek pitched six solid innings and Jeff Bagwell drove in a run as host Houston handed Cincinnati its eighth straight loss.

The Astros swept the Reds in a three-game series for the first time since 1992. Cincinnati has been swept six times this season.

The Reds, who lost nine in a row in 1996, have also lost eight in a row on the road.

Rockies 11, Dodgers 6
Dante Bichette homered and drove in five runs for host Colorado.

The Rockies used five- and six-run innings to split the four-game series and overcome another big game by Eric Karros.

He homered twice and drove in four runs — to go 7-for-17, with four homers and 13 RBIs — in the series.

Despite his problems with Karros, Bobby Jones (2-2) pitched the fourth complete game for Colorado this season. He gave up 10 hits, four in a two-run ninth.

Padres 5, Giants 1
Kevin Brown kept up his mastery of the Giants with 8½ impressive innings and visiting San Diego chalked up its 12th win in 13 games.

Rebounding from Saturday's 5-2 loss that snapped their club-record tying 11-game winning streak, the Padres got a pair of run-scoring singles from Carlo Hernandez in sending the Giants to their eighth loss in 11 games. Six of those defeats have come against San Francisco.

Orel Hershiser (6-5) was removed after three innings, his shortest outing of the season.

NL game reported in yesterday's edition:
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MAJOR LEAGUE LEADERS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

BATTING — Rodriguez, Texas, .359; T. Lincecum, Minnesota, .354; B. Williams, New York, .353; Segui, Seattle, .345; H. Morris, Kansas City, .338; Thome, Cleveland, .327; Higginson, Detroit, .326; M. Vaughn, Boston, .326.
RUNS — Griffey Jr., Seattle, 65; A. Rodriguez, Seattle, 57; Thome, Cleveland, 56; Griffey, Oakland, 54; Durbin, Chicago, 54; Erstad, Anaheim, 53; Dieter, New York, 53; T. Gooden, Texas, 53.
RBI — J. Gonzalez, Texas, 88; Griffey Jr., Seattle, 65; Thome, Cleveland, 61; R. Palmeiro, Baltimore, 61; B. Williams, New York, 57; A. Rodriguez, Seattle, 56; Segui, Seattle, 56.
HITS — Erstad, Anaheim, 99; A. Rodriguez, Seattle, 97; M. Vaughn, Boston, 95; I. Rodriguez, Texas, 93; Segui, Seattle, 91; J. Gonzalez, Texas, 91; McCracken, Tampa Bay, 89; Higginson, Detroit, 89.
HOME RUNS — Griffey Jr., Seattle, 28; A. Rodriguez, Seattle, 25; J. Gonzalez, Texas, 23; M. Vaughn, Boston, 21; R. Palmeiro, Baltimore, 21; Caruso, Toronto, 21; Thome, Cleveland, 19.
STOLEN BASES — Henderson, Oakland, 30; T. Gooden, Texas, 23; Lofton, Cleveland, 22; B. Hunter, Detroit, 20; Caruso, Toronto, 20; K. Iwamoto, New York, 19; Stewart, Toronto, 18; A. Rodriguez, Seattle, 18; S. Green, Toronto, 18.
PITCHING (9 Decisions) — P. Martinez, Boston, 9-2, .618, 3.15; D. Wells, New York, 9-2, .618, 4.28; Cone, New York, 9-2, .618, 4.02; Helling, Texas, 10-3, .769, 4.28; Wakefield, Boston, 8-3, .727, 4.18; Sale, Texas, 10-4, .714, 3.96; W. Williams, Toronto, 7-3, .700, 3.80; Nagy, Cleveland, 7-3, .700, 4.96; Rogers, Oakland, 7-3, .700, 3.13.
STRIKEOUTS — Johnson, Seattle, 134; P. Martinez, Boston, 131; C. Finley, Anaheim, 118; Clemens, Toronto, 95; Erickson, Baltimore, 95; Colon, Cleveland, 87; Sosa, Texas, 84.
SAVES — Percival, Anaheim, 23; Gordon, Boston, 23; Wetteland, Texas, 20; R. Myers, Toronto, 19; M. Rivera, New York, 16; R. Hernandez, Tampa Bay, 15; J. Montgomery, Kansas City, 14; Macdonald, Cleveland, 14; Aguilera, Minnesota, 14.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

BATTING — S. Jordan, St. Louis, .350; Kendall, Pittsburgh, .345; M. Grace, Chicago, .340; Sosa, Chicago, .339; L. Walker, Colorado, .338; Gwynn, San Diego, .336; B. Schies, Colorado, .334.
RUNS — Biggio, Houston, 67; Chones, Atlanta, 61; Sosa, Chicago, 61; McGwire, St. Louis, 61; Galaraga, Atlanta, 61; G. Lincecum, Philadelphia, 56; G. Vaughn, San Diego, 55.
RBI — McGwire, St. Louis, 82; Sosa, Chicago, 74; Galaraga, Atlanta, 67; Castilla, Colorado, 65; G. Vaughn, San Diego, 61; Chones, Atlanta, 59; Schies, Colorado, 59.
HITS — Bichette, Colorado, 105; G. Lincecum, Philadelphia, 102; Sosa, Chicago, 96; M. Grace, Chicago, 95; DeBell, Houston, 93; Biggio, Houston, 92; Chones, Atlanta, 91.
HOME RUNS — McGwire, St. Louis, 33; Sosa, Chicago, 30; G. Vaughn, San Diego, 26; Galaraga, Atlanta, 25; Castilla, Colorado, 22; Chones, Atlanta, 18; Mondesi, Los Angeles, 16; Burnitz, Milwaukee, 16; Lopez, Atlanta, 16.
STOLEN BASES — Womack, Pittsburgh, 27; E. Young, Los Angeles, 27; Biggio, Houston, 24; Remeta, Florida, 21; DeShields, St. Louis, 17; Cleyton, St. Louis, 16; R. White, Montreal, 15.
PITCHING (9 Decisions) — G. Maddux, Atlanta, 10-2, .833, 1.62; M. Lincecum, Atlanta, 9-3, .750, 4.43; A. Leiter, New York, 9-3, .750, 1.60; G. Lincecum, Atlanta, 9-3, .750, 2.25; Schmidt, Pittsburgh, 8-3, .727, 3.84; R. Lincecum, San Francisco, 8-3, .727, 3.78; Hampton, Houston, 8-3, .727, 2.80; K. Brown, San Diego, 8-3, .727, 2.71.
STRIKEOUTS — Schilling, Philadelphia, 157; Wood, Chicago, 118; S. Finley, St. Louis, 105; K. Brown, San Diego, 100; R. Martinez, Los Angeles, 91; A. Leiter, New York, 90; G. Maddux, Atlanta, 90.
SAVES — Hoffman, San Diego, 22; Nen, San Francisco, 22; B. Wagner, Houston, 18; Urbina, Montreal, 18; Shaw, Cincinnati, 18; Beck, Chicago, 17; J. Franco, New York, 16.

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Sports Editors
Joe Hoffman & Ori LewisIAAF
punishes
Morocco for
Israel ban

SEVILLE, S (Reuters) - The International Amateur Athletic Federation has banned Morocco from hosting future events for refusing visas to the Israeli team for the world cross-country championships in Marrakech in March.

The Moroccan government at the time cited security reasons for turning down the Israeli visa applications.

"A strong letter of protest will be sent to the Moroccan federation which asks them to withdraw their candidature for the 1999 Golden League Grand Prix final," IAAF press chief Giorgio Reineri said.

"They will also be asked not to present any further bids for IAAF events until they are able to assure that the government will allow athletes from all other member countries to compete."

The Moroccan federation will also be presented with a bill for the Israeli expenses incurred during their unsuccessful attempt to reach Morocco.

An 11-member team was stranded in Paris for three days prior to the championships while they tried to obtain visas.

FRANCE 98

TODAY AT THE WORLD CUP

Group B
Chile-Croatia, 17:00
(Eurosport)
Italy-Austria, 17:00
(Channel One)

Group A
Brazil-Norway, 22:00
(One, Eurosport)
Scotland-Morocco, 22:00 (not televised)

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Group B
Colombia 1, Tunisia 0
Romania 2, England 1

TOULOUSE (Reuters) - Dan Petrescu scored the winner in the 90th minute as Romania beat England 2-1 in their World Cup Group G clash yesterday.

Petrescu, who plays for Chelsea in the English Premier League, shrugged off a tackle by his London teammate Graeme Le Saux to push the ball through the legs of England goalkeeper David Seaman.

Earlier teenager Michael Owen had given England hope when he came off the substitutes' bench to score an equalizer in the 83rd minute.

The 18-year-old, in only his seventh appearance for England, rifled in his second goal when he shot home from close range after a scramble following a cross from Alan Shearer.

Romania had looked certain of going through when they took the lead with a 47th-minute goal created by the quick-thinking of veteran midfielder Gheorghe Hagi and converted by striker Viorel Moldovan.

The goal left England floundering after an evenly-balanced first half.



HEAVY MARKING - Romania's Dan Petrescu (front) tries to head the ball into goal as England's Paul Ince (l) and 'keeper David Seaman follow the action.

It was Moldovan's 13th goal for his country.

A throw-in on the right flank was taken quickly and delivered to Hagi. The 33-year-old, in his 112th international match for Romania, briefly glanced over his shoulder as he flicked it over his marker Sol Campbell.

Moldovan, reacting faster than Tony Adams, chested the ball into space and then hit a rising right-foot shot wide of Seaman's right hand.

The goal caught England cold immediately after the interval and left Romania with the relatively comfortable task of resist-

ing their increasingly-desperate attacks.

England played well in the opening period when Hagi, after two early fouls, was cautioned. One effort by Paul Scholes, tightly marked by Constantin Galca, was cleared off the line by Gheorghe Popescu.

A hooked shot by Teddy Sheringham also went close, but Romania were more dangerous with Hagi pulling the strings deftly in midfield.

Colombia 1, Tunisia 0
Substitute Leider Preciado scored an 83rd-minute goal to give

Colombia a 1-0 victory over Tunisia yesterday and keep their World Cup hopes alive.

He seized on a pass from the previously ineffective Oscar Valderrama to slot home, but as the lively but scrappy match in Montpellier appeared to be heading for a stalemate.

Despite a fierce sun, the pace rarely relented as both sides, who lost their opening games, sought a much-needed victory.

But brilliant goalkeeper Leider Preciado kept the Tunisians at bay until Preciado's late strike. He had come on in the 57th minute to add punch to the attack which had looked ineffective without Faustino Asprilla, sent home last week for criticizing team tactics.

Tunisia keeper Chokri El Oueri brilliantly tipped over Wilmer Cabrera's goal-bound header in the 22nd minute and twice had to race from his line to foil striker Anthony de Avila as it was Colombia which made the early running.

But Tunisia, toothless against England a week ago, showed that they too could attack.

Colombia keeper Farid Mondragon got down well to save Mehdi Ben Slimane's header and just beat Adel Sellimi as the influential Skander Souayah's threaded through-ball.

Souayah, who could have scored himself when through earlier, had a superb match, dominating the midfield and completely outclassing Valderrama, who was almost anonymous until winning a tackle and putting Preciado through for the vital goal.

The second period followed a similar pattern to the first and Colombia coach Hernan Dario Gomez showed his severe unhappiness with his forwards by bringing on three attacking substitutes.

Group G				
	W	D	L	GF
England	2	0	0	3
Colombia	1	0	1	2
Tunisia	0	0	2	0
Romania	2	0	0	3

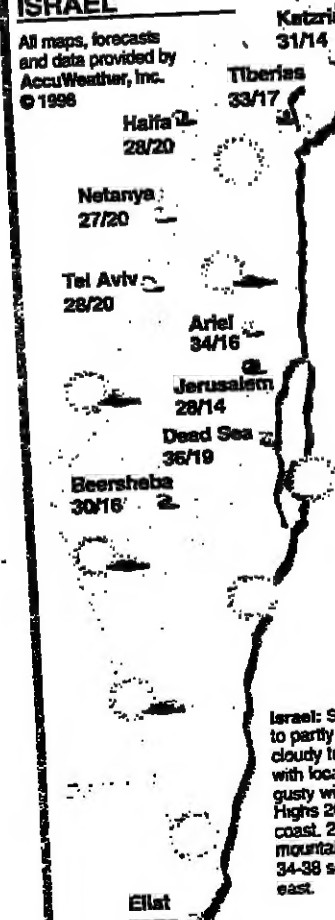
*Romania qualify for second round

AIR CANADA

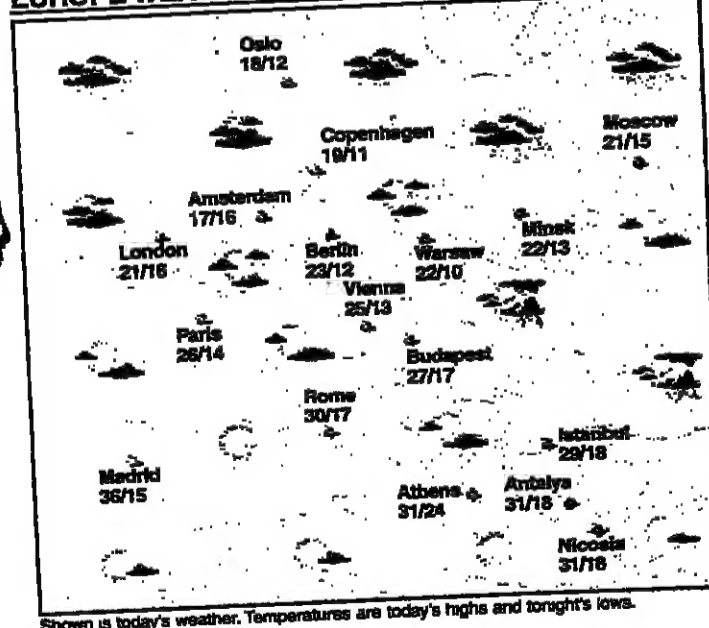
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THE
WEATHER

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EUROPE WEATHER TODAY



ISRAEL CITIES									
City	Today		Wednesday		Thursday		Friday		Low
	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	
Antel	30/26	18/14	35/27	18/14	35/26	18/14	35/27	18/14	18/14
BeerSheva	30/26	18/14	35/27	18/14	35/26	18/14	35/27	18/14	18/14
Dead Sea	35/27	25/19	39/100	20/75	40/104	20/75	42/107	20/77	20/77
Haifa	26/22	20/16	30/100	24/75	41/106	25/79	41/106	25/79	24/75
Holla	26/22	20/16	30/100	24/75	30/100	24/75	30/100	24/75	30/100
Jerusalem	31/28	14/57	30/18	16/14	35/26	16/14	37/28	16/14	16/14
Katanzin	21/22	14/57	23/14	16/14	25/14	16/14	27/18	16/14	16/14
Netanya	31/28	14/57	30/18	16/14	35/26	16/14	37/28	16/14	16/14
Yot	29/22	20/16	30/100	24/75	32/100	24/75	32/100	24/75	24/75
TelAviv	33/19	17/25	35/25	18/14	39/100	20/75	40/104	20/75	20/75